



## Deaf Facility Enrolment Policy

### Rationale

Rosanna Golf Links Primary School is located in Rosanna, 13km north east of the city of Melbourne.

The school currently has an enrolment of approximately 550 students, which also includes students enrolled in the specialist Deaf Facility onsite. The school's Deaf Facility maintains an enrolment base of approximately thirty – thirty-five enrolments annually from Prep to Year Six.

The Rosanna Golf Links Deaf Facility was established in 1996 to give children who are deaf or hard of hearing the best possible access to an inclusive mainstream education. The Deaf Facility provides experienced, trained Teachers of the Deaf (ToD) who work closely with mainstream teachers to support deaf and hard of hearing students. The ToDs adapt the curriculum to suit the needs of individual students as required and may pre-teach, re-teach and consolidate concepts taught in class.

### Enrolment Requirements for Deaf Facility Students

The 2006 Education and Training Reform Act (ETRA) underpins the Department of Education and Training (DET) enrolment policy which can be found at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/Pages/azindexe.aspx>

The policy states that all eligible children and young people have the right to be admitted to their designated neighbourhood government school.

The Rosanna Golf Links Primary School zone has been approved by the Minister for Education and ensures consistency with DET policy and the ETRA legislation regarding closest school.

A student's designated neighbourhood school is generally the school that is nearest the student's permanent address as determined by the school zone. The website <https://www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au> provides guidance on which school zone a student's permanent residence is located within.

In exceptional circumstances, a student may be enrolled in a school based on compassionate grounds. This is an overarching consideration and does not form part of the priority order of placement.

Hearing Impaired or Deaf students living outside the designated neighbourhood government school area are enrolled in the school through the Deaf Facility. Due to the limited number of specialist Deaf Facility schools in Melbourne, students who are eligible to receive PSD funding under the category of Hearing Impairment can be accepted for enrolment at the school.

Students enrolling at our school as part of a prep intake will be required to provide proof of age (indicating that they have turned 5 years of age by the 30<sup>th</sup> April of that year) and an immunisation certificate. A child who is less than the minimum age of entry for Victorian schools but has transferred from an interstate school is eligible for enrolment. Evidence of age and full-time enrolment at the interstate school must be provided along with evidence of disability eligibility. Other parents seeking early age entry for their children must make a written application to the Regional Director.

Student's transferring to the school will be placed in year levels with age equivalent peers. The Principal (or delegate) will contact Principals of previous schools for all students seeking transfers to discuss the circumstances of the transfer, to confirm eligibility, to seek a transfer note or an immunisation certificate (if enrolling), and to discuss any academic or behavioural matters. The

principal has the authority to defer admission for one school day in order that enquiries of the previous school are carried out in the interests of the student.

Throughout the period of enrolment at the school, the Deaf Facility Coordinator will liaise closely with the family, ToD and relevant allied health professionals in order to make any necessary adjustments and learning supports for the student.

### Curriculum Provision

In years Prep to 10 all Victorian government schools offer the Victorian Curriculum as set by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority – therefore regardless of which government school they choose, parents can be confident that their child will learn the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for life-long learning, social development and active and informed citizenship.

Within this broader curriculum, schools have the flexibility to focus on particular learning areas depending on the needs and interests of their community.

At Rosanna Golf Links Primary School, all students undertake Deaf Studies and learn AUSLAN as their Language Other than English.

### Technology Provision

Maintaining fully-functioning hearing equipment is a priority of the Deaf Facility. An audiologist from Australian Hearing visits the Facility once a month to ensure equipment is functioning as it should.

The following provisions are also in place to support Deaf Facility students:

- All staff have an understanding of FM systems and wear transmitters in the classroom and in specialist subjects.
- All students in the Facility wear an FM Microlink with either their hearing aid or speech processor.
- Wall Pilots are operational in every classroom and in each of the specialist areas. When students change rooms, the Microlink frequency is automatically changed as they enter the room, allowing the students easy and direct access to the teacher's voice. RGLPS was the first school in Australia to be fitted with Wall Pilots.
- The school is equipped with eleven Sound Field Systems to assist children who may have difficulties with learning in ways other than through hearing. The FM systems are compatible and linked in with these systems in a number of classrooms, specialist areas and in OSHC.
- Students use computers, iPads, netbooks, videoconferencing, interactive whiteboards and have access to captioning.

### Support with Learning

The level of support provided to Deaf Facility students is matched to the needs of each student and includes the following:

- language and speech sessions with an emphasis on developing speaking and listening skills;
- support for learning and communication using AUSLAN (Australian Sign Language) in English word order where needed;
- withdrawal groups and individual sessions in a variety of curriculum areas as needed;

- ToD support within the mainstream classroom;
- access to the school-based Deaf Studies Program (P – 6) and programs such as SAFE from DCA;
- participation in Deaf cultural experiences, such as performances by the Australian Theatre of the Deaf or AusOpera, Deaf Tennis events, the annual state-wide Primary Deaf Sports Day and interaction with visiting deaf adults;
- support to participate in extra-curricular activities, such as learning a musical instrument, joining one of the bands or Chess Club.

### Further Information

If you have any questions regarding the Rosanna Golf Links Deaf Facility Enrolment Policy, please contact the school on phone: 9457 4178.

**Principal:** Kirrily Lamers

**Deaf Facility Coordinator:** Thom Jackson

**Enrolment Officer:** Kerilyn Bennett

### Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3-4 years as part of the RGLPS review cycle.