

## LEARNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LAP) POLICY STATEMENT

### **Rationale**

The Learning Assistance Program was implemented in schools in the mid-1970's as a supplementary scheme to assist students who have identified specific needs. Through establishing a close one to one relationship between a child and a volunteer parent, a program can be developed to build on the confidence and self esteem of the child. This provides more reason for the student wanting to attend school, and has positive implications for their application to school work.

The perception and developed Learning Assistance is a good program to be a part of, and children who are selected can feel privileged and look forward to some special events in their schooling.

### **Process**

A coordinator is nominated to manage LAP. A role statement for this position is attached.

Staff assess the students in their class, and present names to the co-ordinator for the development of a priority list.

Parents are notified that the volunteers are required, and each person who does volunteer completes a brief questionnaire that identifies a number of key points, e.g.

- to work with a student
- their hobbies and interests
- areas of particular expertise

The co-ordinator, in association with the principal or staff representative, begins a process of matching parents to students, and then once allocated, the LAP can commence.

For more detailed information on the program, the school provides a comprehensive range of resources, as well as information through the LAP co-ordinator directly to LAP volunteers at the commencement of the program.

A range of proformas is also available, e.g.

- parent volunteer sheets
- volunteer questionnaires
- parents consent notes for students