PURPOSE
The purpose of the Program for Students with Disabilities is to:
- ensure students with disabilities or impairments participate in purposeful and meaningful   learning experiences based on their individual needs.
- provide the support necessary for students with special needs to make positive progress.
- ensure all curriculum programs are inclusive of all students.
- develop an awareness and acceptance of people with disabilities.

GUIDELINES
The Department of Education and Training (DET) is committed to delivering an inclusive education system that ensures all students have access to a quality education that meets their needs. The Department provides a range of policies, programs and resources for schools to support the delivery of high quality schooling for all students, including students with disabilities. The Program for Students with Disabilities is a targeted supplementary funding program for Victorian government schools. It provides resources to schools for a defined population of students with disabilities, with moderate to severe needs, who meet criteria for one of seven program categories: Physical disability; Visual impairment; Severe behavioural disorder; Intellectual disability; Hearing impairment; Autism spectrum disorder; Severe language disorder with critical educational needs.

At Athol Road Primary School the Program for Students with Disabilities will:
- be planned collaboratively with Education Support Staff, teachers and Principal/Assistant Principal.
- have Education Support Staff working alongside the teacher in the learning area to ensure that the learning program for the student with disability is clearly monitored and catered to the student needs
- ensure that those with the most knowledge of, and responsibility for the student, work together to establish shared goals for the student's educational future.
- plan reasonable adjustments for the student to access the curriculum.
- provide educational planning that is ongoing throughout the student's school life.
- monitor and track the progress of the student.

1. IMPLEMENTATION
The Program for Students with Disabilities will be implemented according to DET guidelines:
- The Principal/Assistant Principal will be responsible for the Program for Students with Disabilities.
- The Principal/Assistant Principal and teaching staff assigned to the student are responsible for the implementation of staff professional development, program planning, student evaluation and in-school coordination of all student support programs which are supported by the Student Support Services Officer (SSSO) and/or Education Support Staff (ESS) – e.g. psychologist, speech therapist, integration aides.
- Student Support Group (SSG) is established for each student who meets the eligibility criteria.
- Formal SSG meetings are held each semester to ascertain the on-going needs of the student and to prepare appropriate educational programs. Informal meetings are held at a needs basis.
- Necessary resources are purchased, in consideration of recommendations for programs given by SSSO, ESS, Teacher and SSG members.
- The student's teachers and ESS will work as a team to plan educational programs on a term by term basis.
- The student's teachers will develop an Individual Learning Plan which caters for the specific needs of the student.
- Teachers and ESS will maintain a record of work undertaken with the student/s for whom they are responsible.
- Students with disabilities with similar needs may be grouped together for learning and development purposes
- Teachers and ESS will meet regularly as a PLT to review student progress.
- Teachers and ESS will attend professional learning as required.

COMMUNICATION
This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:
- School website
- Induction processes

- Staff handbook/manual
- Staff briefings/meetings as required
- Parent Information sessions
- Newsletters
- Hard copy from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2021
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2023