



# STUDENT IMMUNISATION POLICY

## Scriptural Context

*“Help carry one another’s burdens and in this way you will obey the law of Christ.”  
Galatians 6:2*

## Preamble

- Public Health Amendment (Review) Act 2017 required parents to provide documented evidence of the immunisation status of each child on enrolment to school.
- Parents with children starting school in Kindergarten class are required to present an Immunisation Certificate at the time of enrolment. Failure to do so means, that in the event of a disease outbreak, unimmunised children will have to stay at home for their own protection and the protection of others, if directed by the **Department of Health**.

## Objectives

- Outline the minimum standard of immunisation record keeping.
- Better manage outbreaks of infectious diseases.
- Focus parental attention on the immunisation status of their children.
- Protection of all students in the school.

## Policy Statement

- All students are encouraged to be immunised.
- Prospective students will not be excluded from attending school if they have not been immunised.
- St. Patrick’s school is required to collect and maintain immunisation records on all newly enrolled children.

## Application

- The school policy on Infectious Diseases sets out the procedures to be followed in the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease.
- The approval NSW Department of Health and Community Care Immunisation Record Form consists of a History Statement as well as the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).
- Photocopies of student’s immunisation forms are retained by the school and kept with their records.
- Originals are returned to parents.

## Mandatory

On the enrolment of a student for the first time

- Parents/carers of students should produce a NSW Health and Community Care Immunisation history Statement or a statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).
- The Principal or delegate enrolling student must return the original form to parents/carers.
- The Principal or delegate enrolling student must keep a photocopy of immunisation details with the student’s records.

## Outbreaks of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

In the event of a confirmed outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, the Principal or delegate must:

- Advise Parents of unimmunised students or students with major health conditions by telephone
- Send letters to all families advising them of the outbreak

In the event of a suspected outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease, the Principal or delegate must:

- Advise Parents of unimmunised students or students with major health conditions by telephone

### This was part of the Public Health Amendment (Review) Act 2017

On 1 April 2018 the existing provisions that apply to primary schools will be extended to high schools. This will require principals of high schools to obtain information about a child's vaccination status at enrolment and allow a public health office to exclude a child with a vaccine preventable disease, or an unvaccinated child, from high school during the outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease.

This policy was last ratified by St. Patrick's School Advisory Council in... Reviewed in...	January, 2013 October, 2018
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