

# ENROLMENT POLICY

## BACKGROUND

Lalor North Primary School is a Victorian government designated neighbourhood school. Lalor North Primary School is part of the Department of Education's Designated Bilingual Program and delivers the Victorian Curriculum F-10 to students in English and **Macedonian or Greek** with instruction in **Macedonian or Greek** ranging from a minimum of 30% to 50% of class time.

At Lalor North Primary School, we offer enrolment in one of three Curriculum Programs:

- Standard Curriculum
- Program Greek Bilingual Curriculum Program
- Macedonian Bilingual Curriculum Program.

Lalor North Primary School leads Victoria in Bilingual education. Our Greek Bilingual Program began in 1977 and is the oldest continually operating Bilingual Curriculum Program in Victoria. Our Macedonian Bilingual Curriculum Program began in 1984. Both of our bilingual programs enjoy tremendous support from local communities as well as being internationally recognised by the governments of Greece and North Macedonia respectively. Languages are a strength for every student at Lalor North Primary School. Students learn through language and learn about language, participating in Greek, Macedonian or Italian.

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to specify the entry criteria for students seeking enrolment at Lalor North Primary School.

## Scope

This policy applies to all students seeking enrolment at Lalor North Primary School.

Lalor North Primary School follows Department of Education policy and procedures for all other aspects of student enrolment.

## ENROLMENT CRITERIA

The following enrolment criteria have been specified and approved by the Deputy Secretary, Schools and Regional Services (as the Minister's delegate) under section 2.2.16(b) of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic).

Lalor North Primary School is a designated neighbourhood school and has a school zone. All students residing within the school zone will be offered a place when seeking enrolment.

Students are able to apply for a place at Lalor North Primary School if they live outside the school zone. These students should be enrolled if:

- there is sufficient accommodation at the school; and
- the request for enrolment aligns with the school's Enrolment Management Implementation Plan (EMIP) if they have one.

Where there is insufficient accommodation for all students who seek entry from outside the school zone, students must be enrolled in accordance with the priority order of placement specified in this policy.

## Priority order of placement

Where Lalor North Primary School does not have sufficient accommodation to accept all students who apply from **outside the school zone** or is subject to an EMIP, Lalor North Primary School must manage enrolment applications in accordance with the following priority order of placement:

1. Students with a sibling at the same permanent address who are attending the school at the same time.
2. Students seeking enrolment into the Macedonian or Greek bilingual program on language grounds.
3. All other students in order of closeness of their home to the school.

## Language grounds selection criteria and process

To be eligible for enrolment on language grounds (criteria 2), the student must meet one of the following selection criteria:

- a) student speaks Macedonian or Greek at home.
- b) student is or has been enrolled in an eligible kindergarten or school.
- c) at least one parent or carer speaks Macedonian or Greek.

When enrolling on language grounds, parents and carers of students applying from outside the school zone must complete the **Language Grounds Attachment**. A Language Grounds Attachment will only be provided to parents and carers if Lalor North Primary School has insufficient accommodation for all students who seek entry.

To qualify under **Selection Criteria A**, the attachment requires parents and carers to confirm that the student speaks **Macedonian or Greek** at home.

To qualify under **Selection Criteria B**, the student must have attended one of the following early childhood or school settings for a minimum of 1 year, 12 hours a week:

- For Foundation/Prep enrolments, the student has been enrolled in an early childhood service that delivered at least 50% of their state-funded four-year-old kindergarten program\* in Macedonian or Greek
- For students transferring from other schools seeking enrolment in Years 1 to 6, the student has been enrolled in a full-immersion or partial-immersion (bilingual) target language early childhood service or school.

There must be no gap between attending the eligible kindergarten or school and seeking enrolment at Lalor North Primary School.

Parents and carers may be asked to supply the student's previous enrolment record or attendance certificate as evidence.

To qualify under **Selection Criteria C**, the attachment requires parents and carers to indicate that at least one parent or carer speaks Macedonian or Greek. Parents and carers may be asked to provide supporting documentation, such as a copy of their secondary school or tertiary education record, to demonstrate proficiency in the language.

When there are more applicants under language grounds than available places at the school, eligible students who meet **criteria A** will be prioritised first, followed by those meeting **Criteria B**, and then those meeting **Criteria C**. If required, students who satisfy the same selection criteria can be further prioritised in order of closeness of their permanent residence to the school.

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\* For a list of participating funded kindergartens, visit the [Early Childhood Language Program](#). There are more kindergartens that offer bilingual education that may not be listed here. For any queries, please contact your [Regional Office](#).

## Verification of permanent address

Lalor North Primary School may ask for supporting documentation to assist in verifying a student's permanent address.

The school may also make the following enquiries to verify the information provided:

- checking the electoral roll at an Australian Electoral Commission office or the Victorian Electoral Commission head office
- checking with a real estate agent to confirm a rental address
- for a rental property which is a studio apartment or a one-bedroom unit, checking whether there are any regulations/codes limiting the occupancy of these apartments to one person per apartment.

An application may be unsuccessful if, after reasonable enquiries, the principal is unable to verify that the evidence provided is genuine and valid.

## Enrolment on compassionate grounds

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

## APPEAL PROCESS

Parents or carers can appeal an enrolment decision by lodging a written appeal with the principal.

If this appeal is unsuccessful and parents or carers are not satisfied that their appeal has been adequately considered, they may write to the North West Victoria Regional Director.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Lalor North Primary School enrolment policy is available to the school community on the school's website.

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2024
Approved by	Angela Singh
Next scheduled review date	September 2026 This policy is reviewed every 3-4 years.