

Learning Difficulties Policy – 2004

Preamble:

It is essential that schools provide maximum opportunity for all students to acquire the skills and competencies necessary to participate in and contribute to society. It is important that students who have learning difficulties are not disadvantaged because they do not acquire such skills easily.

The difficulties with learning that students experience will vary in cause, nature, intensity and duration. Students may experience learning difficulties because of the ways in which they learn or the rates at which they learn. The difficulties may also result from social and cultural factors.

All schools have a responsibility to identify and meet the educational needs of students with learning difficulties.

Policy:

Addressing the needs of students with learning difficulties at Katoomba High School involves the following focus:

- Identifying Students – This may be initiated by teaching and counselling staff from Katoomba High School and/or feeder primary schools, by parents or by other professionals in the community. Because learning difficulties may arise at any time throughout a student's school life, Katoomba High School teachers regard the identification of students with learning difficulties as a continuing process.
- Assessing Students – This may occur both formally and informally by class teachers, STLA, school counsellors and/or personnel outside Katoomba High School.
- Program Planning and Implementation – Individual Plans for students with learning difficulties build on information gained from identification and assessment and may require modification of regular class programs and/or the assistance of Teachers' Aide Special, and acknowledge the relationship between learning difficulties and other stresses in a student's life and reflect the specific needs of the individual student.

A range of resources, both human and material, is used in this process.

- Monitoring and Evaluation – This occurs in consultation with class teachers, STLA, Teachers' Assistants, parents and the students themselves.

In addition:

At Katoomba High School we:

- Have a whole school commitment to meeting the needs of students with Learning Difficulties.
- Involve students with Learning Difficulties in the Peer Tutor Reading Program.
- Provide Teachers' Assistant support to students with Learning Difficulties in regular classrooms and in small group withdrawal settings.
- Provide opportunities for individual assistance from the STLA within the Independent Learning Centre.
- Liaise with parents.
- Work with regular class teachers to modify and implement teaching and learning programs.