



NDIS funded Therapy Policy

Wangaratta District Specialist School Special School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and has a zero tolerance for child abuse. (Child Safe Standards)

Rationale:

- Wangaratta District Specialist School currently has 160 students attending the school. Each of these students could potentially be in receipt of funding through the NDIS.
- This policy aims to clarify the school's obligation to allow NDIS funded therapists to operate within the school.
- The Principal, as the delegate of the Minister, has the right to permit or refuse entry onto Victorian Government School premises.
- The Principal will articulate reasons for granting or refusing NDIS funded therapy in school during school hours

Aims:

- To ensure that Wangaratta District Specialist School meets its responsibilities in supporting students with their educational attainment.
- To establish clear guidelines for supporting and information sharing with external therapists.
- To ensure that school-based therapy staff support the making of 'reasonable adjustments' to assist students to attain their educational goals.

Implementation:

- WDSS is happy to release any information/reports that the school has previously obtained for funding purposes can be copied and given to parents to provide supporting evidence for when the families meet with the NDIS planner.
- The school will not, however, arrange for or pay for new assessments to be completed for the sole purpose of NDIS funding which does not directly benefit the child and his/her schooling
- As a general rule NDIS funded therapists will not be permitted to work with students on an individual basis in the school during the school day.
- The Principal does have the discretion to permit NDIS funded therapists to work in the school in particular circumstances where they deem it necessary to maximise outcomes for students.
- Wangaratta District Specialist School will not permit NDIS funded therapists to work at the school during school hours unless the Principal agrees to a special request. In making such a decision consideration will be given to the relative benefits of an external therapist providing therapy versus the anticipated impact on student learning, disruption to classes, ability to provide supervision, the availability of an appropriate space to work in and timing of such requests.
- Where the Principal approves an NDIS funded therapist to work with students during school hours they must be satisfied that appropriate checks (Working With Children or Criminal History check and evidence of appropriate qualifications) have been put in place to allow access in a manner that is compatible with the school's Duty of Care and that will not impinge upon the school's ability to adequately discharge this duty. ie provide adequate supervision.
- Following consideration of individual requests from parents for NDIS funded therapists to work in the school the Principal will provide a written response of their decision.
- The school will provide NDIS funded therapists with information as deemed necessary once parental permission is provided, to offer observational visits and attendance at Student Support Group meetings.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's ongoing review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in	2017	
--	------	--