NDIS FUNDED AND PRIVATELY FUNDED THERAPIES IN SCHOOLS POLICY

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Glenroy West Primary School.

BACKGROUND

Students enrolled at Glenroy West Primary School could be in receipt of funding through the NDIS for a variety of allied therapy input. The therapies funded by the National Disability Insurance Scheme are related to the student's functional whole-of-life support needs, and not for educational purposes. The responsibility for therapy for educational attainment remains with the education system. On this basis, GWPS employs therapists and access therapy from Student Support Services to provide educational supports. This policy is based on information from the Victorian Department of Education and Training.

There is a difference between what is funded by the NDIS and what the school's responsibility is. Generally speaking:

- Schools are responsible for personalising learning and support for students with disabilities that primarily relate to their education. This includes teaching, learning assistance and aids, school building modifications and transport between school activities. This is in line with relevant antidiscrimination laws.
- NDIS will fund supports that a child needs which relate to the functional impact of their disability on regular activities that are a part of daily living. These supports are not primarily related to the child's schooling.

Students who do not have access to NDIS funding may access therapies that are privately funded by the family.

PURPOSE

This policy aims to clarify Glenroy West Primary School's responsibility regarding allowing NDIS and privately funded therapists to operate within the school. It will:

- Ensure that GWPS staff and families have a clear understanding of the role of school based and NDIS or privately funded therapists.
- Provide a clear framework and reasoning for decision making regarding therapists visiting GWPS for assessment or therapy purposes.
- Support school-based staff to continue to assist in the making of 'reasonable adjustments' to help students to attain their educational goals as required by the Department of Education and Training.

OBJECTIVE

- To ensure that GWPS meets its responsibilities in supporting students with their educational attainment.
- To ensure clarity regarding NDIS and privately funded therapists attending GWPS to assess or work with students.
- To establish clear guidelines for and information sharing with external therapists.

SCOPE

- The Principal, as the delegate of the Minister, has the right to permit or refuse entry onto Victorian Government School premises.

This policy applies to:

- all staff, including casual relief staff, contractors and volunteers

- all external therapists funded

POLICY

School based therapist report writing and provision:

- GWPS will provide copied versions of any information/reports that the school has previously obtained from educational or allied health professionals to parents to assist them in providing supporting evidence for NDIS planning.
- 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 schooling

NDIS or privately funded therapy for students:

The NDIS provides choice and control for children with disability and their parents/carers on how disability services and supports are delivered. As a result, Glenroy West Primary School may receive requests from parents/carers to allow NDIS funded therapists to:

- observe a student in the classroom or in the school environment
- discuss the students' goals and strengths with relevant staff
- attend a Student Support Group meeting to monitor and tailor the support provided to the student.
- conduct therapy session with individual students

Observations of individual students may occur provided that these occur without disruption to the class and that therapy goals correlate with the school environment. Observations are preferred to be held after 2.15pm. Written requests to conduct an observation must be provided to the principal in advance.

Any requests for NDIS or privately funded therapists to attend the school are to be directed to the Assistant Principal via email lisa.brandecker@education.vic.edu.au who will respond on a case-by-case basis, following the process recommended by the Department of Education.

If a NDIS funded or privately funded therapist visits Glenroy West Primary School to observe a student in the classroom or in the school environment, they should only observe a particular child and with that child's parental/carer consent. The observer should:

- only make written notes focusing solely on the relevant child
- protect the privacy of other students in the class by not recording anything that in any way could identify them
- not make any audio or video recordings of the class.

Where the Principal approves a NDIS or privately funded therapist to attend an observation school during school hours, they must be satisfied that appropriate checks have been put in place in line with the school's Duty of Care. This will include:

    - Working With Children or Criminal History check
    - NDIS funded therapy on school grounds form
    - Parent consent form
    - Documentation regarding licence to use school premises and information sharing

NDIS and privately funded therapists will not be permitted to conduct individual therapy sessions with students during the school day.

NDIS or privately therapists are welcome to be part of a student's Student Support group. The Student Support Group is the formal process for school staff to communicate with therapists as per information from the Victorian Department of Education and Training.

We encourage NDIS or privately funded therapists to provide the school with copies of their reports, programs and recommendations as appropriate.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website (or insert other online parent/carer/student communication method)
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions

- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed at a minimum of every four years.

Policy last reviewed	27th October 2026
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	November 2030