



7 April 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

## **NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA (NCCD)**

All Australian governments have agreed to implement a new annual national data collection on school students with disability. This data collection does not apply just to students with an identified disability, but for all students in the College community. This data collection will occur in every school every year.

### **Why introduce a Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on school students with disability?**

All Australian governments agree that every child in an Australian school, regardless of his or her circumstances, has the right to a high quality and inclusive education that meets her needs.

Better information about school students with disability will assist teachers, principals and education authorities to support their participation in schooling on the same basis as students without disability.

### **How will it benefit my child?**

There are students with disability in every school in Australia at some point. This means that every school needs to be ready and able to support students with disability to ensure that any obstacles to participation and achievement in their school education are identified and minimised.

This new national data collection will reinforce the actions required of schools under the national *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*. These laws mean that schools and education systems are required to make, where needed, reasonable adjustments for students with disability.

An adjustment is a measure or action taken to assist a student with disability to participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting, in the classroom and at the individual level.

Determining the level and type of support needed for an individual student is not a new activity for Australian schools.

### **How will my child's privacy be protected?**

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all children and their families is a key priority. Authorised staff in each school will manage the information to ensure that personal or confidential information is not disclosed. At the College, Ms Rebecca Lumsden, Head of the Team for Inclusive Education and Mrs Liana Strutt, Deputy Principal - Academic Services, will oversee the collection and processing of data.



Transmission of data by the school will be done in such a way that the privacy and confidentiality of all students is protected.

When data are reported it will be at the school level only and no individual student will be able to be identified in the data collection.

**For what will the information be used?**

It is intended that the data collected about students with disability will be published on the *My School* website and in other national reports on schooling from 2016 onwards.

Public reporting of these data will mean more is known about how all Australian schools and education authorities support students with disability.

Australian schools and education authorities will use these data as evidence to improve their support for students with disability.

**Do I have a choice about data collection about my child?**

Yes. You have the choice as to whether or not you allow data to be collected about your child. We ask that you inform the office of Academic Services if you **DO NOT ALLOW** information about your child to be collected and included in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data by sending an email reply to: [nccd@mercedes.wa.edu.au](mailto:nccd@mercedes.wa.edu.au), including your child's name and homeroom in the subject line.

Include in the email the statement:

- I hereby declare that information about my child is NOT to be collected for the NCCD at Mercedes College.
- Your name
- Digital signature (if possible)


**If we do not receive a reply from you by 4.00pm Friday 5 May, data collection about your child will proceed as it will be assumed that permission has been granted.**

You are welcome to contact my office during business hours on 9323 1379 or email [lstrutt@mercedes.wa.edu.au](mailto:lstrutt@mercedes.wa.edu.au) should you have any queries.

Yours faithfully



**Mrs Liana Strutt**  
Deputy Principal – Academic Services



**Ms Rebecca Lumsden**  
Head of Learning Area –  
Team for Inclusive Education