

Repetition of Students Policy

Overview

Waterfall Public School (WPS) is committed to ensuring every student is taught at their point of need and is supported to achieve syllabus outcomes. In previous years, the practice of repetition of students was used when it was felt that a child was under-achieving or unable to cope with the demands of the grade. Throughout the school year, it is our duty as teachers to closely monitor our students' progress to provide them with the best possible available resources and programs suited to their learning, behavioural, emotional and social needs.

Repetition can have a demoralising effect on a child and the effect on the child's self confidence and self-esteem could influence their attitudes for the rest of their life. Repetition therefore is one of the most difficult educational decisions facing the school and the child's parents.

As part of the ongoing process of meeting the needs of the students in our care, consideration has to be given to the appropriateness of student grade placement. If it is considered that a child may benefit from repetition this policy is considered and enacted.

The Waterfall Way

This policy is used to consider repetition if:

- The parent suggests it
- The class teacher suggests it
- The Learning and Support team suggest it
- The child is experiencing difficulty because they:
 - Are very young
 - Are immature
 - Are underachieving
 - Has suffered from a long-term illness
 - Has had a long term absences, such as a holiday or school refusal.

The procedures for repetition should be implemented as soon as is practical before the end of any school year.

Guidelines

- Preliminary discussion is needed between the class teacher and the Principal
- The School Counsellor should be consulted, and appropriate tests and diagnosis conducted if applicable.

- The parents must be informed as early as possible if it is decided by the Principal and the class teacher that repetition may be considered.
- The decision of repetition will be made following an agreement between the parent(s), class teacher and Principal, based on the student's needs, documentation provided by the counsellor and other medical practitioners if available, and an interview between the school, parent, class teacher, school counsellor and the child.
- The child is informed of what is involved and given the necessary reassurance at home and at school.

Conclusion and over-riding considerations that must be addressed

- Repetition of students should occur in the earliest grade level possible, once the appropriate assessments have been made.
- Research literature shows that few children benefit from repetition, particularly when subjected to the same course of work.
- Assessment of students' maturity and academic achievement must be carefully made through the use of objective evaluation and appropriate personnel.
- No decisions concerning the repetition of students are to be made before the details are discussed with all stake holders, including the child's teachers, School Executive, School Counsellor, Principal and Parents.
- The deciding factor must, as always, be whether such a step is going to benefit the child.
- Before a final decision is made the impact of the repetition on the student's eligibility for support programs both in and out of school, should be identified and discussed with the parents.
- NO child will be repeated without the full agreement of the parents and the Principal.

Repetition Referral Forms

[Teacher Referral Form](#)

[Light's Retention Scale](#)

Review dates

Current review: Term 3, 2024

Next review: Term 1 2025

Principal Name: Yvette Hopper