

## SPECIALISED LEARNING PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM

Alkimos College offers a Specialised Autism Learning Program (SALP) for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, to support students with ASD in Years 7-12 to achieve their academic goals. The SALP is an endorsed educational program, evidence-based reflecting academic research and is supported by the School of Special Educational Needs; Disability (SSEND).

Students eligible for this program will have the academic potential to participate and achieve success in mainstream schooling and beyond; although are at risk of underachieving or disengaging due to barriers with communication and/or social competency which prevents them from fully accessing the curriculum.

The Specialised Autism Learning Program will focus on the achievement of positive academic, behavioural, social and emotional outcomes for each student to maximise independence and access to further education and successful employment. Each student's individual program will be based on their unique goals, strengths and needs. It will encourage the exploration and development of each student's talents and interests to complement their secondary schooling experience. The curriculum will be tailored to meet the learning needs of each individual and be responsive to the student's, family and community needs.

A key feature of the Specialised Autism Learning Program will be the "SALP room" which will be an accessible, comfortable, supportive and safe place for students to access learning opportunities both structured and unstructured during class and break times. The amount of time each student spends within the SALP room will vary according to individual need. Support will be provided to address the learning needs that stem directly from their ASD such as communication, self-regulation, peer interaction and organisational skills. Within the SALP room, explicit teaching will be utilised with the aim of ensuring that students maintain academic output, ensuring a smooth transition back into mainstream. Students in the program will be provided with internet access and encouraged to invite friends to socialize with them during breaks in the SALP room.

The program will be supported by a Program Coordinator and specialist teachers experienced in working with students with Autism, and experienced Education Assistants who will work collaboratively throughout the school and community to promote learning for each student which will be delivered across three settings:

- Learning within the mainstream secondary school setting
- Learning within the SALP room
- Learning within the community

## **Student Selection and Application for Year 7 in 2021:**

*Students with a recognised diagnosis of ASD can apply for selection to the SALP from within or outside of the local intake area.*

The program is designed and resourced to provide for students who meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Eligibility for enrolment in Western Australian public schools in Year 7
- ✓ A multi-disciplinary diagnosis of ASD, without accompanying intellectual impairment (reports from Paediatrician, Psychologist and Speech Pathologist)
- ✓ Is academically capable of understanding and coping with Year 7 level content and tasks
- ✓ Manages behavior independently or through the use of pre-determined prompts/strategies
- ✓ Independent self-management of personal care
- ✓ Parents/carers will ensure safe transport to and from the SALP

Entry places to the Specialised Autism Learning Program at Alkimos College are strictly limited to only 6 available places in 2021.

*Parents who have a child enrolled in the Alkimos Primary School SALP will have the option of continuing the program through to secondary schooling, as Alkimos College is the partnering SALP secondary school. As such, these students will be guaranteed entry to the program.*

### **Documents required will include:**

- Most recent School Report
- Most recent NAPLAN Report
- Diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) – confirmation from paediatrician after triage with speech pathologist and clinical psychologist
- Psychologist and Speech Pathology report (if available)
- Signed Permission to release and/or exchange information form

Need assessments for eligible students will to be evaluated across multiple modes including informal and formal observations by the Program Coordinator (observation of the student in their current primary school), school reports, Individual Education Plans (IEPs), NAPLAN results and Individual Behaviour Plans (IBPs). All of these will be taken into consideration for acceptance into the program.

The selection process will include interviews and rating against eligibility criteria prior to offering placements to students who are eligible for, and will most benefit from, the specialised program. Enrolment in the program will be reviewed annually, and may be extended to suit the individual support requirements of each student.

*The school will follow the Department's Enrolment Policy Version 2.3, Enrolment Procedures Version 2.6 and Enrolment for Students with Disability Guidelines Version 1.4.*