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LHCS Statement of Purpose

We believe it is our responsibility as Christians to raise children in the light of God's Word. The education of children must be Christ-centered, equipping them to become responsive disciples of Christ who seek the will of the Lord in all aspects of life.

LHCS Mission Statement

Kitchener-Waterloo Christian School Society advances dynamic, excellent Christ-centered education through unconstrained facilities, exceptional programs, and extensive resources that cultivate responsive disciples of Christ.

LHCS Vision Statement

As a diverse community, Kitchener Waterloo Christian School Society intentionally engages God's world, locally and globally, through distinctive educational programming, strategic partnerships and sustainable growth.

Effective Date: **April, 2010**

Review Date: **April, 2015**

Revision Date(s):

Committee: **Program Committee**

Policy 720 – International Student Program Policy

Preamble

God, in his word, clearly teaches us that we have the mandate to include many children, not just our own, in the word "children". In the great commandment, we are told to love others as ourselves. Our "neighbours" are any other human beings. Our world is becoming ever smaller through globalization. As Christians it is our responsibility to become more effective in multi-cultural interactions in order for our witness to become more effective in such an environment. By introducing international students to our school, we are providing a wonderful opportunity for cross-cultural understanding to develop so that we can reflect the heart of God, so that we can become effective co-workers in bringing God's redemptive story to those who have not been exposed to it in an educational environment.

Christian schools often have had a history of being ethnically homogeneous. The gospel, on the other hand, gives a global perspective that envisions a church made up of all nations. International students can help us create a mosaic that celebrates diversity both in our classrooms and within our families. International students bring with them their own experiences, insights, cultural expressions and perspectives. When these students become part of the established school community, they bring change. All students in the classroom have to adjust as integration takes place which is very important in the education of the "whole child." Students need to learn how to interact and work with God's children of all ethnicities.

Policy

1. International students are defined as students who are in Canada on a “student visa” or who have come for a period of less than 6 months. and are in a “homestay program” or who are accompanied by a parent or relatives for a limited duration of time. Note: This definition of International Student does not include children whose parents immigrate from another country to become landed citizens, and the children live at home with the parents or guardians and are not on a student visa.
2. International students will live with a parent or a guardian in a “homestay” environment that is consistent with the vision and admission policy of LHCS.
3. All students admitted to the English as a Second Language (ESL) program will be tested to determine they are able to benefit from classes at LHCS.
4. International students are required to participate in the ESL program unless the administration in consultation with ESL staff at LHCS determines otherwise.
5. Whenever possible, the instructors of the ESL program will have taken courses in ESL instruction.

Procedures

1. Students in the International Student program may receive one-on-one instruction and/or special small group instruction in the English language on a daily basis.
2. The ESL component of the International Student program will focus on reading and comprehension, speaking and pronunciation and vocabulary development. There will be oral and written components.
3. In the classroom, students will be integrated into the regular program as much as possible.
4. The following process for admitting international students will be followed:
 - Parent or guardian applies for enrolment in LHCS.
 - Student enrolment form is received along with:
 - Birth certificate
 - Immunization record
 - Most recent translated report card
 - Guardianship documents where applicable
 - Proof of insurance
 - Initial non-refundable amount set by the finance committee

When the above items are received, the student is accepted on the condition that the balance of the tuition for the year is paid prior to the first day of school.
5. Evaluation will be anecdotal with emphasis on speaking, reading, grammar, writing and listening. General rubrics will be on the written report.
6. Any special classes and/or family assistance may be organized by the ESL staff with the assistance of a team of volunteers from the school’s parental community. There will be additional costs for this.
7. There will be a buddy system in which one Canadian student is allocated to each international student. This may also involve the whole family.
8. There will be a general guideline of a maximum of 2 – 3 international students per classroom. The international students should not exceed 20% of the total number of students in any classroom.
9. The ESL staff will provide regular communication with international students’ families via monthly email reports, newsletter and anecdotal reports at the end of each term.

Adopted April, 2010