

# Beerwah Education Support Team

The Beerwah Educational Support Team (BEST) has the responsibility for ensuring that all students, especially those students with learning difficulties and diagnosed disabilities, are educationally catered for.

Our whole school approach to students with disabilities and learning difficulties has:

- an actively promoted belief that all students are accepted and included at our school
- an understanding that students' needs will be addressed during their education
- a well structured, readily known and easily accessed referral process is in place for the identification of support needs
- an effective and representative Special Needs Committee that supports all students
- a strong emphasis on teaming and collegial support
- skilling of teachers, teacher aides and carers
- clear communication about the role of Beerwah Education Support Team (BEST)

Students and parents are welcome to seek help or advice from the Beerwah Education Support Team through appointment and a strong partnership with teachers is encouraged.

## Students with Learning Difficulties

BEST staff support students who have learning difficulties. These difficulties may limit their outcomes from education due to their limited ability to access and participate in learning activities. Beerwah State High School is committed to the provision of an education appropriate to the needs of all students and recognises the key role in learning of:

- literacy (spoken and written language)
- numeracy (number, space, measurement etc.) and
- learning how to learn

Our staff provides a variety of programs catering to students' individual needs. These may include Corrective Reading, Success Maker (literacy and numeracy), selective withdrawal and Parent Assisted Learning. Much of our support occurs alongside students in a classroom situation in conjunction with their teacher.

We liaise with feeder schools to facilitate the transition from Year 7 to 8 and keep a running record for each student to monitor progress.

## Students with Disabilities

BEST staff also support students with diagnosed disabilities. Education Queensland recognises that students with the following disabilities may require special consideration to participate in mainstream classes or the provision of alternative educational programs:

- intellectual impairment
- speech-language impairment
- autistic spectrum disorder
- physical impairment
- hearing impairment
- vision impairment

Beerwah State High School has a Special Education Class (SEC) for students with disabilities. Support is provided to students in mainstream classes as well as individual and group tutorials to assist with the completion of assessment. In addition to this students are able to access a variety of alternative programs which are run both on and off site including literacy, numeracy, Work Skills, Work Experience, home and personal care, catering and horticulture.

The SEC is also committed to providing a smooth transition for students moving into and out of the high school. A structured six week program takes place at the end of every year for all year seven students from feeder schools who may need to access the SEC and its programs in their high school years. During their senior years (grades 10, 11 and 12), all students are placed on a highly individualised program which focuses on providing the skills, experiences and networks to allow students to lead a productive and satisfying life after school.