

**POLICY # 0501 - Board - International Student Policy**

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT POLICY**

**Redeemer Christian High School**  
**Community for Christian Learning**

**Purpose of Policy:** To allow International students to attend RCHS.

**Applies to:** International students

**Owner:** Board

**Date of Board Approval:** March 26, 2009

**To be Reviewed Prior to:** March 2011

**Applicable / Attached Forms:** YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

<b>Reason for policy update</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Revised and accepted as per Board meeting	March 26, 2009	Approved

# International Student Policy

## Background

Our world is becoming increasingly smaller through globalization. We are confronted daily by people of differing backgrounds and nationalities. Many of our schools have become or stayed quite homogeneous and as a result have not been exposed to cultures that may be quite different from our own. Intercultural interaction forces us to look beyond the box and hopefully enables us to let go of our ethnocentric point of view. We are forced to evaluate our own values and that of others, an exercise that can draw us closer together and also closer to God

As Christians, it is our responsibility to become effective in cross- cultural interactions. As we become skilled in our interactions, our witness can become more effective in this world. Jesus prayer for all believers was “that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:22b-23). By introducing international students into our schools we can begin that process of understanding and provide a wonderful opportunity for cross- cultural understanding to develop so that we can become effective co-workers in bringing God’s redemptive story to those who have not heard it.

## Rationale for International Student Enrolment

- 1. To enrich the school’s culture by enrolling students from a variety of national backgrounds.*** International students bring with them their own experiences, insights, cultural expressions and perspectives. When these students become part of an established school community they bring change. All students have to adjust as integration takes place.
- 2. We live in a global village. International students make this point real to the established school community.*** Students from Hong Kong, United States, Korea and Taiwan provide tangible evidence that global connections increase year by year.
- 3. Christian schools have a tendency to become, and have a history of being homogeneous But the gospel gives a global perspective that envisions a church made up of all nations*** International students can help us create a mosaic that celebrates diversity.
- 4. To provide schools with an opportunity to use their resources in an efficient and stewardly way.*** International students can be used to fill open spaces in a grade in order to make the class economically viable. If a school has the room and instructional resources, the additional enrolment could generate income that can be used to supplement other programs.

## Policy Statement

1. Enrolment of international students should be limited. No more than 10% of the student body or a class at any given time should be made up of recently enrolled international students. Students should be fully integrated into the school in terms of language, curriculum and extra-curricular activities before being considered outside the 10% limit
2. Enrolment of a variety of international backgrounds should be encouraged. It would benefit the school if two or three ethnic backgrounds were targeted for enrolment. This gives integration a better chance of success.
3. International students should live in home stay environment that is consistent with the school's vision and enrolment policies.  
Christian schools need to ensure that their vision of the home, school and church working together is honoured.
4. Commitment to the school's Christian vision needs to be clearly understood by those considering enrolment. This can be difficult as language barriers make communication difficult. As well, unscrupulous recruiting agencies will manipulate the necessary data on the enrolment forms once they know what the school requires.
5. Provide students with English as a Second Language instruction. There are excellent resources that can be accessed to assist students in acquiring a working knowledge of the English language.
6. An International Student liaison person such as the ESL teacher is needed to provide support. There are many sociological studies that give sound direction as to how international students make the transition to a new culture. A person designated to look after these students would serve a valuable function. The cost should be borne by the international student program.
7. Fees will be based on a per student basis and not on a sliding scale, as it is difficult to estimate the family income from international families.

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