



Student Welfare Policy

Rationale:

- This College endeavours to promote a healthy, supportive and secure environment for all children and to raise awareness of what makes students resilient, to develop strategies to reduce vulnerabilities and increase coping skills.

Aims:

- The College is a positive environment in which all teachers assume responsibility for student welfare, endeavouring to provide successful experiences for all children, where children feel safe and secure in a supportive environment where a sense of belonging and wellbeing are strengthened.
- Children develop positive social behaviours and problem solving skills.
- Staff are confident, skilled and proactive in the management of student welfare issues.
- Communication processes and protocols are clear and well known to ensure the effectiveness of student welfare support.
- The College does not permit corporal punishment

Implementation:

Parents and carers are encouraged to support the College in its efforts to maintain a positive learning environment. We endeavour to support students to develop leadership and decision-making skills, confidence and appropriate assertiveness to work together towards common goals and to celebrate diversity.

The College has considered student welfare, safety and care carefully and has developed a set of policies and procedures and documents in the following areas:

Student Welfare

- Student Welfare
- Student Discipline
- Bullying
- Complaints Resolutions
- Mandatory Reporting
- Privacy

Student Safety

- Yard Supervision
- Excursions
- Safety and Welfare of Students learning with an External Provider
- Emergency Management Plan
- Critical Incident Plan

- Occupational Health and Safety
- Accident and Incident Register
- Internet Use

Student Care

- First Aid
- Medication
- College Attendance

The Student Welfare Policy will be implemented by ensuring:

- the policy is clearly communicated to students, staff, parents and carers.
- the College appoints a staff member who will coordinate student welfare across the College.
- the College adopts a proactive and strategic stance with issues of student welfare, rather than operating in a consistently reactive mode.
- each class develops a statement of rights and responsibilities in consultation with the students that is consistent with this policy and all other policies relating to student welfare.
- the College will endeavour to cater for children identified with specific welfare issues by creating support groups, developing appropriate individual programs including goals, monitoring performance and behaviour, and providing ongoing support.
- the College implements welfare support structures and programs which prioritise and address the identified needs of individual students or the College as a whole and that help implement the aims of the policy.
- The College will also access outside services to provide support for students and staff when required, which may include:
 - Psychologist for psychological and academic assessment
 - Mentors – providing support for ‘at risk’ children
 - Social Workers to provide services such as counselling, social skills and anger management programs
 - Local parent support groups

(all external service providers and volunteers will need to provide to the Principal a current “Working with Children Check” card number in order to provide support to the students. The card needs to be sighted by the Principal and a copy stored in the College office)
- The College will implement and maintain programs such as:
 - Peer Support
 - Buddies
 - Student Awards
 - committing to a whole school program to develop resilience, social skills, conflict resolution and problem solving.
 - Student Support Groups for children in need
- Longitudinal data will be collected regarding frequency and types of welfare issues, so as to measure the success or otherwise of school-based strategies and approaches.

Communication

Student welfare policies will be communicated to the College community in the following ways:

- Teachers will be oriented to all student welfare, safety and care policies at commencement of employment
- Teachers will be provided with opportunities for professional learning in the areas of student welfare via, for example, the Association of Independent Schools Victoria, and other relevant experts
- Regular information regarding student welfare policies will be provided to families in the College newsletters.

- Information evening sessions will be offered to the College community regarding student welfare, care and safety issues.
- The following policies and procedures will be posted on SEQTA:
 - Student Welfare
 - Policy Against Bullying
 - Student Discipline
 - Student Code of Conduct
 - Staff Code of Conduct
 - Grievance
 - Privacy
 - Yard Supervision
 - Internet Use

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the College's three-year review cycle.

March 2014