

## **SAINT MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGES**

### **Overarching Welfare Policy**

#### **3.6.2 Student Welfare Christian Justification**

Student welfare encompasses everything that the School community does to meet the personal and social needs to students and enhance their well-being. It involves recognising, evaluating and developing each student as a total and unique person in the context of society.

An essential part of student welfare is discipline and prevention of inappropriate behaviour and dealing with unacceptable behaviour. It encompasses the concept of self-discipline and one's respect of the rights of another to function and learn in a mutually respectful environment.

Through its student welfare program our school aims to help its students to develop in virtue, enjoyment for learning, communication skills, socially acceptable values, responsibility, dignity and sense of worth, self-reliance, cultural identity and a caring attitude towards others.

The student welfare program is implemented both inside and outside classroom.

As part of welfare, teachers help students to develop and exhibit:

- A sense of belonging to God and the wider community
- A sense of identity
- A sense of self dignity
- A sense of purpose
- A sense of personal competence
- A sense of security

It is expected that those involved in curriculum development should consider these aspects of student welfare and incorporate them into their policies and program. By so doing, a student welfare perspective can be incorporated into the curriculum.

Outside the curriculum students are provided with opportunities to:

- Communicate
- Develop positive relationships
- Recognise and value culture differences
- Care and support other people

Student welfare is therefore the result of teachers, parents and caregivers, and students working together for the benefit of the students. Our school provides:

- Effective learning and teaching
- A positive climate
- Good discipline

- Community participation

Our welfare program aims to meet the needs of its students in their general personal development and to provide preventative and remedial measures to enhance the welfare of students. This encompasses an agreed and accepted statement of student rights and responsibilities, which acknowledges that every student has obligations as well as expectations in all aspects of their education.

### **Rationale:**

- Saint Mary MacKillop Colleges endeavour to promote a healthy, supportive and secure environment for children, and to promote many opportunities for the personal development of character, enabling students to become well rounded, self-directed and resilient persons.

### **Aims:**

To provide an environment which:

Within a framework which helps the child develop his or her Catholic Faith to be lived and professed through life, the school: -

- Fosters a personalized approach to education within which each student is valued as an individual with specific strengths, weaknesses and needs.
- Empowers each student to acquire a full range of human virtues, which will lead to the development of a well-rounded, self-directed resilient person

- Encourages the students to strive for personal excellence and to fulfil their potential in their school work and all their undertakings.
- To prepare students to make an effective and generous contribution to society
- Provides effective and easy communication with parents to ensure the effectiveness of student welfare support
- Encompasses clear channels and guidelines when it comes to critical matters in the welfare of students

### **Implementation:**

- Student welfare is a shared responsibility between home and school
- Saint Mary MacKillop Colleges adopts a proactive and strategic stance with issues of student welfare. 'Personalized education' is the fundamental approach at our school, welfare support structures for prioritizing and addressing the identified needs of individual students, or the school as a whole are now in place.
- Saint Mary MacKillop Colleges implements and maintains the following:
  - Student Awards at regular Assemblies
  - Signature Cards
  - Newsletter to Parents
  - A Key Function each semester

The School provides the following support structures:

- o Close contact with the parents of each child
- o Protocol for mandatory reporting
- o Regular Pastoral care

Saint Mary MacKillop College aims to comply with all privacy issues in accordance with current legislation and departmental requirements.

**Documents concerning the welfare of students include:**

Attendance
Child Protection Policy and procedure
Code of Conduct (Student)
Suggestions/Complaints and Grievances Policy
Pastoral Care and Discipline Policy
Medication Policy and Health Care Procedures
Work, Health and Safety Policy and Plan
Homework Guidelines
Student Leadership