



STUDENT WELFARE / PASTORAL CARE POLICY

VISION STATEMENT

To provide a Christ-centred learning environment that empowers each individual to enjoy a life of purpose.

POLICY STATEMENT

Mount Annan Christian College endeavours to promote a healthy, supportive and secure environment for all children. It seeks to use biblical truth and principles to underpin the interactions in this educational community. Student Welfare encompasses everything that the College community does to meet the personal and social needs of students and enhance their well-being. It involves recognising, valuing and developing each student as a total and unique person in the context of society. It seeks to assist young people to grow strong and to grow up into Christ. It seeks to raise awareness of what makes students resilient and to develop policies, structures and practices to reduce vulnerabilities, to build connectedness, and to develop community.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff, students and caregivers/parents. The following policies and documents should be read in conjunction with this policy:

- Student Management policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Child Protection Policy
- Grievance Policy

RATIONALE

The College accepts that parents and families have the prime responsibility for the welfare of their children. Families, however share that responsibility with the general community and a range of social institutions, including schools.

A division between the College's responsibility and that of the home is artificial and fails to recognise the child's development as a whole person.

Therefore, every teacher is responsible for student welfare and they are accountable through the trust that parents have placed in them through their shared role.

AIMS

Mount Annan Christian College aims to create a positive environment in which all teachers assume responsibility for the student's wellbeing 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.

- 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.
- To engage with the families and to support them in raising their children

- To encourage students to develop healthy relationships, in and out of school.
- Reduce incidents of mental health

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND ORGANISATION

The College will adopt a proactive and strategic stance with issues of student welfare, rather than operating in a consistently reactive mode.

The College will implement wellbeing support structures and programs which prioritise and address the identified needs of individual students or the school as a whole and that help implement the aims of the policy.

The College will endeavour to implement and maintain programs such as:

1. Development and implementation of Academic Care Program through Learning support, Student Academic Mentoring (SAM) Program
2. Developing student leaders
3. Student Awards (Student Management Policy)
4. Biblical Education
5. Training staff in wellbeing strategies and developing their skills
6. Transition Programs between Primary and Secondary
7. Developing effective pastoral and behavioural referral systems
8. Developing effective monitoring systems
9. Developing effective grievance processes including allegations of harassment or bullying (including physical, non verbal or verbal)
10. Child protection policies and protocols including mandatory reporting and investigation of allegations against teachers/volunteers etc
11. Camps, inviting special guest speakers, Ministry and Service
12. Monitoring absences and attendance
13. Developing effective learning environments
14. Comply with College OH&S policies including formal risk assessments
15. Overt and active playground duty supervision
16. Encouraging the majority of staff to have current Resuscitation and First Aid certificates
17. Effective excursion, sporting and camps policies and programs
18. Class-based devotional activities

Chaplaincy Program

The College has a chaplain that works onsite 2 days a week. The chaplain is involved in with working with individual students or small groups of students in both developmental and preventative well-being issues.

Student Referrals

The Chaplain can only initiate meetings with students through the Chaplaincy Referral System.

A student can only be referred to Chaplain through Senior Executive Member or Stage Advisers.

If a teacher/parent/student has a concern/need to see the chaplain it must be reported to one of the above people first.

Students/Parents/Teachers are not to deal directly with the chaplain for referrals.

The Chaplain is involved in (but not limited to):

Bounce Back Program

Individual / spiritual guidance

Grief/Loss Counselling

Family Support

Mind Matters Program

Social Skills Program

Community Service

School Camps

We also have a commitment to liaise with outside Welfare Organisations such as Anglicare, Local Police Liaison Officers, Mission Australia, Youth Liaison Officer – Camden/Campbelltown Council, Young Carers Australia, if the student and/or family need extra support.

Middle Years Program

In our Primary and Secondary Stage 3 and Stage 4 classes, specific pre and early adolescent needs are recognised and addressed by staff through teaching and pastoral programs

Homeroom Core Teachers

Breakdown of Curriculum

Management and reward Systems

Camp program

Student Engagement initiatives

Support and mentoring

Forum and community events

Playground areas

Mentoring – through Stage STACKS groups

Academic Competitions

STACKS/Churchtime – Mentoring Groups Incorporating Positive Psychology/College Core Values

STACKS groups are pastoral care groups that meet regularly. Groups consist of students from vertical grade groupings. STACKS teachers are mentors to the students in their groups and develop programs around the College Core Values that focus on the Spiritual, Academic, Physical (Fitness), Social/Emotional growth of the students within their groups. Mentoring is encouraged within the group between younger and older students.

Currently, groups meet every second Monday morning for 50 minutes and also every Wednesday morning for 20 minutes during rollcall.

EVALUATION

The needs of the students are continually being assessed. Programs are implemented as the need arises and as the resources become available. Identification of needs occurs at various levels of operation throughout the College, including but not limited to the Executive meeting and staff meeting structures and Stage Advisor interactions. Other areas that require specific development are identified on an Executive Leadership planning level and will be implemented according to the College's Strategic Educational Plan. See the latest version of the Educational Strategic Plan for more details.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

- Version: February 2017
- Approved .
- To be reviewed: March 2018