



Our Lady of Mercy

CATHOLIC COLLEGE BURRENEER

‘Encouraging Girls – Empowering Women’

Wellbeing Policy

Last modified 21 July 2017

Rationale

Wellbeing is the total care that the school provides for each community member, including the staff, students and parents. At Our Lady of Mercy Catholic College procedures exist to develop the school as a truly Christian and caring community. The community draws its inspiration from the examples of Jesus’ teachings as recorded in the Gospels and interpreted by the Catholic Church.

The school is committed to promoting the Mercy ethos through quality relationships where each of us can experience support, encouragement and education in Mercy traditions.

At Our Lady of Mercy Catholic College wellbeing is exemplified by:

- an environment conducive to the motivation towards personal achievement, self-esteem and the happiness of the individual;
- an environment that ensures the dignity and worth of each individual, and a sense of belonging;
- an environment that is safe and caring and treats all in a just and fair manner;
- an environment that provides quality teaching and learning, good discipline and high expectations of the individual student’s performance.

Principles

At Our Lady of Mercy Catholic College we believe that:

- wellbeing is an expression of God’s love for all, regardless of race, colour, creed or culture;
- students have a right to receive relevant and compassionate wellbeing;
- students need to be encouraged to realise their potential within a strong, nurturing community;
- students need to be encouraged to develop and sustain relations of mutual respect;
- parents are active partners in the wellbeing of their daughters;
- the College has a responsibility to respond to legislative and regulatory changes which affect the wellbeing of students;

- wellbeing is the responsibility of every member of staff;
- structures and procedures must nurture an environment where each student's full educational, spiritual, physical and social potential may be realised.

Guidelines

- The Leader of Wellbeing has the responsibility for implementing the Pastoral Program and works closely with the House Coordinators, Homeroom teachers and the College Counsellor to provide support and guidance for all students.
- The House Coordinator has the responsibility for nurturing the community of the House and overseeing the wellbeing of the students in that House Group.
- Homeroom teachers work with the House Coordinator and the Leader of Wellbeing and meet three to four times per term to discuss and manage wellbeing issues and the implementation of the Pastoral Program.
- Students are allocated to a Vertical Homeroom (VHR) group at the beginning of Year 7 based on the House system. Students remain in this Homeroom group for the duration of their time at the College.
- Each VHR Class is led by a Homeroom Teacher who is a person in a significant relationship of care for the students. This teacher remains with the same VHR Class from Year 7 to Year 10.
- Students meet with their Homeroom Teacher in their VHR Class each morning after Period 2 for the purpose of prayer, roll call and daily notices.
- A College Counsellor is employed to give assistance and guidance to students in need four days per week.
- A Merit System is in place to affirm good behaviour and recognise student achievement.
- One period each cycle is allocated as a House Assembly which may include guest speakers or input from members of the College Leadership Team and the House Coordinator.
- Another period each cycle is allocated as a Pastoral Period which operates in VHR classes for 35 minutes and includes lessons based on the Mercy values in conjunction with issues relevant to the College Community.
- Peer Mentoring is embedded in the VHR structure and Tutorial Programs such as LAUNCH which occurs on a regular basis to assist Year 7 students with the transition to High School.