

GSCA 1.6 Philosophy of Student Wellbeing Values

This philosophy is based on particular Gospel values found at the heart of the Rule of Benedict and

the Church's teaching. These values include love, respect, compassion, inclusion, community, justice, hope and reconciliation.

We value:

- the dignity of each person (as a child of God);*
- a love of learning;
- respect for individual differences so that "the strong have something to strive for and the weak nothing to run from" (Rule of Benedict 64:9);
- an appreciation of beauty and the diversity of cultural values;
- hospitality of heart and place;
- the seeking of peace.

(*Good Samaritan Education* Philosophy of Education)

Respect for human persons entails respect for the rights that flow from their dignity as creatures. These rights are prior to society and must be recognised by it...

(Catechism of the Catholic Church: n.1930).

The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart

of Christ's teaching; that is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school.

(The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium #9)

Principles underlying student well-being and child protection policies and procedures in Good Samaritan schools

- Recognition of the God-given dignity and rights of students
- Students have a right to a safe, secure and peaceful environment
- Student well-being impacts directly on student learning**
- Students are better prepared for learning when:**
 - **their innate human dignity is recognized**
 - **individual differences are catered for**
 - **cultural diversity is welcomed.**
- Student well-being is the responsibility of all staff working in partnership with families in a whole school context.**

Good Samaritan Catholic School communities are responsible for:

- providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment within which students experience personal safety and safety in relationships
- being **vigilant in all matters relating to child protection and safety**
- developing protocols for effectively and non-violently managing behaviour within a supportive school environment
- regularly monitoring and reviewing all elements of the pastoral programs, their implementation, and their outcomes
- ensuring that the pastoral policies, programs and procedures conform to the requirements of State legislation for the protection of children and young people
- ensuring staff are appropriately trained in the understanding and application of these programs and procedures
- ensuring that the [Governing Council is notified of the referral](#) to a State authority of an allegation of harm to a student by an employee and of the [outcome of such a referral](#)

The principles underpinning a supportive Good Samaritan Catholic school environment form the organizational framework within which each school community plans strategies for sustaining

positive relationships so that students are safe and effective learning and teaching may occur.

An Organizational Framework for strategies to sustain safe positive relationships and effective learning and teaching would include:

- pastoral relationships which help students value themselves and others
- inclusive teaching and learning which is responsive to diverse needs and educational disadvantage;
- support for students who are at risk or suffer harm
- supportive school-family partnerships
- formation in self-discipline, responsibility and resilience
- effective networks of care across the community
- specific structures and organisational arrangements to support student development and redirection
- reconciliation – offering, in the Christian tradition, support and opportunity for a fresh start.
- commitment to justice and service - identifying and eliminating barriers that hinder the participation and achievement of all students
- procedures that provide for a quick and appropriate response to concerns raised

Review History

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