

Reviewed 2013
Due 2015



Student Welfare Policy

RATIONALE

The emotional, physical, social and spiritual wellbeing of students at Northside Christian College is important for their success at school, whether in the classroom or the playground. Healthy students are happy, settled, resilient, connected to school and others and are well placed to develop into healthy, balanced adults. This document outlines policy statements about how the school works with parents to provide programs, encouragement and support for students to meet their personal needs as outlined above. Clear school rules and behaviour management strategies, well understood values and support structures for students combine to provide an environment where students feel safe and valued and where their welfare is paramount.

POLICY

1. Student welfare is a shared responsibility between home, school and the community.
2. Northside Christian College will adopt a proactive and strategic stance on issues of student welfare, rather than solely being reactive. Student welfare encompasses everything that happens at school to meet personal, spiritual, social and learning needs of students.
3. A culture of positive reinforcement will be encouraged in all aspects of the school. This will include celebration of students work, gifts and achievements through the newsletter, at assemblies and in class presentations and fairs.
4. Northside Christian College will, as far as budget constraints allow, employ a school welfare officer. Staff can refer a student, or a student can self-refer to the Student Welfare Officer. Referral forms can be accessed via the network.
5. Northside Christian College will provide access to agencies and consultants from outside of the school to deliver psychological, learning and emotional support to students with parents' consent and knowledge.
6. Northside Christian College will provide pastoral care to Secondary students through the Chapel and home room programs and to Primary students during daily class devotions and assembly. These times are for building healthy relationships and a formalized avenue for pastoral care to take place.
7. The delivery of the Christian Life Studies curriculum provides time for exploration and teaching of the beliefs and values of both the Christian home and the College. The classic disciplines of faith, such as prayer, study of the Scriptures, compassion for and service of others builds confidence and character, and clear ethical standards for behaviour.

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8. Northside Christian College will provide a clear behaviour management plan that provides direction and both positive and negative consequences for behaviour choices at school.
9. Students will be provided with opportunities for student leadership that allows development of skills and positive relationships within different year groups in the school context. This includes the SRC and both Primary and Secondary College Captain positions.
10. All Prep students will have a Year 6 Buddy for a year. Buddies will be carefully matched with Prep students.
11. Northside Christian College will provide opportunities for effective transition:
 - Into the school for families and students through activities such as orientation days
 - Special orientation days for Preps starting the following year
 - Process of handover and transition for Year 6 into Yr 7.
 - A whole school dedication service,
 - Year 5 and 7 Camps that develop closer relationships and challenges that build resilience.
 - The Early commencement Program for Years 10 and 11, introducing the Semester 1 units for subjects to be taken in the following year.
12. Parent involvement is encouraged at Northside Christian College through the Parents and Friends Committee, parent helpers in the classroom and at special events and excursions.
13. The school makes a commitment to communicate in a timely manner regarding student welfare issues with parents, via the Elite Attendance program that notifies parents by SMS text regarding a range of issues, including attendance, late arrival, head injury or other serious injury,
14. The Northside Christian College Student Behaviour Management Policy (Restorative Discipline) provides a positive set of expectations that allow students to confidently know how to behave in the school setting.
15. A range of extra-curricular activities will be encouraged to provide opportunities for students to try new things, to relate to students in other year levels and to provide meaningful activities at lunchtimes.

Associated Policies Related to this policy are:

Student Behaviour Management Policy (Restorative Discipline)
Mandatory Reporting
Critical Incident Policy
SMS – Text Messages to Parents Policy
Anti-Harassment Policy
Grievance and Complaint Management Policy
Discrimination Policy
Pastoral Care Policy
Excursions, Camps and Risk Assessment Policy