



# Edinburgh College

# Student

# Welfare

# Policy

## Document History

This policy is to be ratified by the School Council on Jan 2017

The life cycle of this policy is three years. It will be reviewed in 2020

## ***Rationale***

At Edinburgh College, we believe that all children have the right to attend school in a safe and caring environment where their spiritual, mental, physical and emotional well-being is a priority. This includes, but is not limited to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, and children who are vulnerable. In addition, it is recognised that effective student learning is closely linked to student welfare.

## ***Aims***

The aims of the Student Welfare Policy are to:

- provide a safe, happy and healthy environment that will nurture all;
- assist students in reaching their potential in a wide range of areas;
- provide support for students dealing with personal issues that impact on their development;
- ensure that staff members model the love of Christ while carrying out their daily duties;
- implement strategies that develop and enhance students' self-esteem, wellbeing and sense of belonging.

## ***Implementation***

The Student Welfare Policy is the umbrella policy for school policies and practices relating to the wellbeing of students.

These include:

- Behaviour Improvement Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Child Safe Protection Policy
- Child Safe Recruitment Policy
- Complaints and Appeals
- Information Communication Technology Acceptable Use Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Education Outside of the Classroom Policy
- Guidelines for Parents with Complaints
- Pastoral Care Policy
- Procedural Fairness Policy
- Staff Structure Policy
- Supervision Policy
- Work, Health, Safety and Welfare Policy

The implementation of these are described within the policies themselves and involve staff and student review and education programmes. The student welfare policies are also readily available for staff, student or parent perusal on the College website.

#### The Student Welfare Policy:

- encourages all members of the college community participating in the learning programs and life of the college. Staff, parents and students, in partnership, are encouraged to know their responsibilities.
  - Parents are responsible for ensuring their children attend school. They share in the responsibility of shaping their children's understandings and attitudes about acceptable behaviour. They assume greater responsibility for their children's behaviour as their children travel to and from the College.
  - Teachers are responsible for the education and care of their students when at school. Their task is to provide the best possible program to meet the needs, capabilities and aspirations of each student. They are also responsible for appropriately communicating with parents about the educational progress and behaviour of each student.
  - As children grow, they will become more active participants in the partnership.
  - When the partnership is based on mutual respect, each partner will support the decisions and responsibilities exercised by the others.
- Encompasses everything the school community does to meet the personal, social and learning needs of all students, acknowledging the diversity characteristics of the college community.
- Creates a safe, caring College environment in which students are nurtured as they learn.
- Is achieved through the total school curriculum and the way it is delivered.
- Incorporates effective discipline.
- Incorporates preventative health and social skills programs.
- Stresses the value of collaborative early intervention when problems are identified.
- Provides ongoing educational services to support students.
- Recognises the diversity within the school community and provides programs and support which acknowledge difference and promote harmony.
- Recognises the role that the College plays as a resource to link families with community support services.
- Provides opportunities for students to enjoy success and recognition and make a useful contribution to the life of the college
- Enhances the resilience of the students primarily through primary prevention and early intervention strategies.

Primary Prevention and Early Intervention strategies are key to assisting each student at Edinburgh College to develop a healthy outlook on life:

## **1. Primary Prevention**

Promoting resilience through:

- a sense of belonging
- a one to one relationship with a caring adult
- positive social behaviours and problem solving skills
- a sense of spiritual and communal belonging
- strong family relationships and minimal family stress
- peer connectedness

Strategies:

- build mutual respect and promote safety at college
- implement comprehensive curriculum to engage all students
- enhance school attendance
- practise inclusive teaching and learning
- encourage supportive relationships
- ease transitions
- involve parents / families and communities

## **2. Early Intervention**

Developing resilience through:

- implementing appropriate support programs
- providing effective interventions
- reinforcing students' positive achievements
- providing a sense of safety and security

Strategies:

- assess risks and identify needs
- provide school-based counselling and support
- develop programs to improve skills
- monitor and evaluate student support programs

Welfare initiatives which are an integral part of the college program include:

- Buddy Programs/Peer Support
- Chaplaincy and Counselling
- Chapel Programs
- Faith Development Classes
- Kids Safe Program (New in 2017)
- Life–Skills, Drugs and Sexual health Educational Programs
- Orientation Days
- Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L)
- Recognition of Achievement
- Resiliency Programs/Activities
- Share and Care/Parent Association Programs
- Student Leadership Programs
- The Challenge - Specialised Year 9 Personal Development Course
- Week of Spiritual Emphasis, i.e. FLAG and GIG Week
- You Can Do It!/Friendly Schools