



Alkira
Secondary College

Personalised learning for all. Respect for the individual learner.

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International Student Wellbeing Policy

Rationale:

This College endeavours to promote a healthy, supportive and secure environment for all children; inclusive of International Students and Cultural Visitation Students and to raise awareness of what makes students resilient, to develop strategies to reduce vulnerabilities, to build student/College connectedness, and to increase coping skills.

Alkira SC acknowledges within our statement of commitment to **Child Safety Standards** that that it is our moral and legal responsibility to create a nurturing school environment where children and young people are respected, their voices are heard and they are safe and feel safe. All children, regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, age disability, sexual orientation, or family or social background, have equal rights to protection from abuse.

Within this context it is vitally important that Alkira staff promote the participation and empowerment of all students. When children have an environment in which they feel safe, respected and comfortable, they are more likely to speak on issues of safety and wellbeing.

Aims:

The College is a positive environment; endeavouring to provide successful experiences for all students, where children feel safe and secure in a supportive environment where a sense of belonging and wellbeing are strengthened.

- Children develop positive social behaviours, problem solving and conflict resolution skills.
- 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 ensure that appropriate privacy measures are in place

Implementation:

- Student Welfare of International Students is linked to DET Home Stay Arrangements Options 3+4.
- The Principal, Assistant Principal (International Student Programs) and International Student Support Program Co-ordinator will manage student welfare across the College.
- The College will adopt a proactive and strategic stance with issues of student welfare, with links to the school wellbeing co-ordinator and external agencies available through Medibank Health Insurance.
- The College will implement welfare support structures and programs which prioritise and address the identified needs of individual International Students.
- The College will access Student Support Services and other appropriate services to advise and assist in supporting students with specific welfare needs.

- The College will endeavour to implement and maintain a range of programs to support International Student welfare such as:
 - Following all school, DET and IED processes and protocols in support of International Student welfare.
 - International Education Unit of DET
 - Access to SSSO
 - Peer Support
 - Transition programs
 - Access to specific staff associated with the International Student Program; such as- International Student Program AP / International Student Program Co-ordinator / EAL Program Coordinator / Careers Co-ordinator and VCE Co-ordinator.

- The College will provide the following support structures:
 - Pastoral Care.
 - Monitoring of, and responding to absences.
 - Trauma Management plan.
 - Protocol for Mandatory Reporting.
 - Student Support Groups for children in need.
 - Annual International Student Survey of students.

- The College will utilise the following mental health services to support International Student welfare:
 - Reach out
 - Headspace
 - Beyond Blue
 - Safe Schools Coalition

- The school will endeavour to cater for:

Children with identified specific welfare issues by creating support groups, developing appropriate individual programs including goals, monitoring performance and behaviour, and providing ongoing support.

- The school will cater for the **Child Safety Standards** through its welfare programs, College protocols and curriculum via the following:
 - A Child Safety Officer (Wellbeing Coordinator) will be appointed as contact for others who have questions or concerns or want to report an allegation of child abuse.
 - Alkira staff promote the participation and empowerment of all students of the College. When children have an environment in which they feel safe, respected and comfortable, they are more likely to speak on issues of safety and wellbeing.
 - Empower International Students to have a formal voice of what needs to occur at the College from their perspective, with an identified forum and scheduled timeframe of when this will occur.
 - Continually building upon the opportunities and avenues for participation and empowerment of all children within the College.
 - Celebrating diversity and continually developing Alkira’s capacity to be a culturally and linguistically safe community, where respect and equality is enhanced in all things we do.

-Liaising with international student within the College to establish standards of care, their rights, how to raise concerns, consulting mechanisms and the various manners that they can have a voice in this area as student leaders / student mentors. Creating strategies and processes for this occur.

-Alkira SC will create processes and protocols to make students aware of child safety / child abuse and their need to report matters of child abuse to authorities.

-Child safe information and curriculum will be developed and shared through Pastoral Care sessions.

-Alkira SC will provide support for children impacted by abuse; including the development of a Student Support Plan in consultation with wellbeing professionals. Strategies may include development of a safety plan, direct support and referral to internal and external wellbeing professionals etc.

-International Students will be made aware on how to report inappropriate behaviour.

-The school will create clearly understood and widely publicised child safety reporting procedures.

Alkira SC will continually reflect and monitor its response to towards providing international students through Pastoral Care curriculum-

- Student Engagement
- School wide positive behaviour support
- Respectful relationships education
- Health education
- Sexuality education
- Mental Health
- Supporting Resilience
- Child wise personal safety education

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the College's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in **February 2017**