



Alkira
Secondary College

Personalised learning for all. Respect for the individual learner.

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STUDENT WELLBEING POLICY

Rationale:

The emotional and physical wellbeing of our students is pivotal to their success at school, as adolescents, and in their future lives. Physically and emotionally healthy students are happy, able to deal positively with life's challenges, experience a sense of connectedness with the College and others, and are well placed to develop into well-balanced and successful young adults.

Aims:

To provide an educational environment which recognises, values and builds student wellbeing.
To develop students who are physically and emotionally healthy.

Implementation:

- Developing the wellbeing of our students is central to our role as a College, and is reflected in our whole College philosophy.
- Our College will value and encourage student individuality, differences and diversity.
- A culture of positive reinforcement and encouragement will permeate all facets of our College.
- A Student Wellbeing team will be established to develop and oversee a whole College Student Wellbeing strategy.
- Programs that provide for the emotional health of students, such as *'MindMatters'* and *SAFEMinds* will underpin our curriculum.
- Programs that support a safe environment and which encourage open discussion, will be implemented across the College.
- A Child Safety section within the College website will be created, linking to Child Safety Standards- Code of Conduct and associated documentation from DHHS / DET / Royal Commission on Child Safety, student empowerment and inclusiveness.
- The curriculum will be broad, will provide for the needs of individual students, and will be developed to cater for multiple intelligences.
- Local community programs that support the wellbeing of students, parents and families will be advertised and promoted.
- The College will provide a trained student welfare counsellor, and will access DET regional and network staff with wellbeing and/or welfare expertise as required.
- Programs dealing with issues such as Drug Education, and Respectful Relationships will form part of the College's Student Wellbeing program.
- An active Student Representative Council will form part of the College's decision-making team.
- Staff will be provided with professional development regarding student wellbeing, the implementation of wellbeing programs, and the resolution of wellbeing issues.

- Student work and achievements will be regularly showcased and publicly recognised.

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 children. 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. Alkira SC will, having regard to recommendations established through the *Royal Commission for Children and Young People* (pg. 50 – 51), refine and further monitor our processes and protocols, specifically catering for:

- Listing in prominent areas of the College, the rights of children through our College **values** and set of **expectations**.
- Empowering students to have a formal voice of what needs to occur at the College from their perspective.
- Continually building upon the opportunities and avenues for student participation and empowerment of all children within the College.
- Promoting cultural safety and safe learning environments for Aboriginal children, the disabled and children from culturally / linguistically diverse backgrounds, where respect and equality is enhanced in all things we do.
- Empowering and providing an inclusive environment for Aboriginal children, the disabled and children from culturally / linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Liaising with student groups 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.
- Alkira SC will develop appropriate curriculum and a delivery platform (Pastoral Care sessions), providing students with education on:

- Standards of behaviour for students attending Alkira SC
- Healthy and Respectful relationships (including sexuality)
- Resilience
- Child abuse awareness and prevention

Alkira SC will continually reflect and monitor its pastoral care curriculum to ensure provision has been made for-

- 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.