



## Student Wellbeing Policy

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*St Bernard's College is committed to a culture of "zero tolerance" for child abuse. We promote a culture that prioritises the safety and wellbeing of all young people and continue to respond positively and proactively to Ministerial Order 1359 in relation to related policies, procedures, strategies, risk mitigation and our responsiveness to emerging issues.*

*St Bernard's College is committed to the establishment of a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are respected and valued.*

### Preamble

This policy aims to provide a foundation on which can be constructed an appropriate set of policies on all essential aspects of student well-being in the College. It derives from the College Mission Statement and is scripturally based to ensure that principles and practices are authentically Catholic and true to the College's self-understanding.

Student Wellbeing at St. Bernard's College is primarily informed by the following 7 policies:

1. Child Safeguarding (Safety and Wellbeing) Policy and Procedure
2. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy
3. Prevention, Recognition & Management of Student Self-Harm Policy
4. Positive Relations Policy
5. Drug - Illicit (Student Use of)
6. Student Services Policy a) Counseling Services b) Educational Support Services
7. Student Wrongful Behaviour of a Serious Nature

### Principles

- "Our goal, inspired by the gospel and by our faith in Jesus Christ, is to be a positive influence in the development of each person willing and able to make a constructive contribution to our society. This encompasses Emotional, Spiritual, Intellectual and Physical Development". (St Bernard's Mission Statement)
- In the spirit of Edmund Rice, the care of young people is central to the ethos and mission of St Bernard's College. In partnership with parents and guardians, the school staff aims to nurture and encourage the full human development of each individual student.
- As a school in the Edmund Rice tradition, we aim to be an Inclusive Community. Our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and committed to the common good (EREA Touchstones).
- St Bernard's recognises individuality. Each member of the community is a unique person whose human dignity and needs are respected. Each should feel safe physically and emotionally.
- Student Services encourages all staff to take a role in identifying and supporting students in need and will help staff and students. Some of these students require educational support to manage learning disabilities while others need guidance and counselling to deal with the challenges of education and life in general.

- St Bernard's College will maintain The Wellbeing Leadership Team to enhance the profile as well as improve the ownership and broaden the understanding of the major student wellbeing issues in the college.
- Provide an environment that reduces the risk of self-harm by establishing structures, which promote student well-being, as well as skill staff in the recognition of students at risk of self-harm.
- To minimise the harm caused by drugs by providing a supportive environment in which to develop personal and social skills that equip students to deal with drug related issues in a variety of contexts.
- The wellbeing role of all staff at St Bernard's College involves the fostering of caring, supportive, and meaningful relationship between staff and students. An overall approach is one that shows respect through a willingness to listen and assist students with their needs.

## Guidelines

1. **St. Bernard's College is a community.** Members should sense belonging, support and personal worth. Parents, staff, and students have responsibilities to create this community.
2. **St. Bernard's College is a community** that values relationships and practices a restorative approach, empowering students to take responsibility for their actions and for restoring relationships hurt by their words or actions.
3. **St. Bernard's College is a place of growth.** Individuals should feel called to develop personally and empowered to act constructively. All are called to become more fully human.
4. **St. Bernard's College is a place of justice and peace.** Respect for persons, property and feelings, and acknowledgment of the rights of others are key obligations and are worked towards using restorative practices.
5. **St. Bernard's College is a place of liberation.** Each person's human dignity and freedom are respected. Rights must be balanced with responsibilities.
6. **St. Bernard's College is a place of love.** As a Eucharistic community, the College should promote genuine Christian love of and service to those within and those outside of the College community.
7. **St. Bernard's College recognises individuality.** Each member of the community is a unique person whose human dignity and needs are respected. Each should feel safe physically and emotionally.
8. **St. Bernard's College recognises human fragility.** Using the model of Jesus, it aims to be a community of compassion where forgiveness is a means to call to greater personal growth.
9. **St. Bernard's College recognises personal responsibility.** Self-direction is more formative than imposed external control and the College promotes self-directedness as the goal of moral development through the reflection process embedded in Restorative Practices.

10. **St. Bernard’s College recognises the value of self-esteem.** Self-esteem is a vital quality to be fostered in all its members and the College aims to develop confidence and initiative in the students.
11. **St. Bernard’s College recognises partnership.** It accepts that parents are the primary educators and aims to support them in this endeavor just as it requires parents to support the College.
12. **St. Bernard’s College is committed** to the safety and well-being of all the children and young people in our care.

## Implementation

St. Bernard’s College will:

- articulate and celebrate its traditions, symbols, and story to express its own uniqueness, thus fostering the identity of its members.
- foster positive relationships between staff, students and parents through appropriate educational, religious, social, and restorative interactions and the use of Restorative Practices.
- maintain a well-being practice that will ensure support and engagement of all in the St. Bernard’s College community.
- foster appropriate leadership skills and opportunities for personal growth.
- recognise significant moments and achievements in the life of the community.
- develop policies to set out clearly the appropriate expected behaviour for students, staff, and parents.
- develop policies to respond to members who do not live up to these expectations in any way to change unproductive behaviour patterns for more life-fostering ones.
- develop policies to set out the options available to staff, students or parents who have additional educational or pastoral needs. This policy will guide school based pastoral carers on the suitability and appropriate extent of response.
- develop policies on appropriate general forms of educational and pastoral assistance to all members to prevent critical situations developing.
- a suitable system of on-going review to evaluate these policies and develop new approaches where a need becomes apparent.
- implement and enact policies, procedures and protocols as required by Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECV), Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and other statutory bodies to protect the safety and well-being of all the students in our care.

## Policy Review

<b>First Approved:</b>	September 2021
<b>Last Amended:</b>	June 2022
<b>Principal and Ratification Date:</b>	Michael Davies, June 2022
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	June 2024