



Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

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 870 in relation to related policies, procedures, strategies, risk mitigation and our responsiveness to emerging issues.

Rationale

St Bernard's College supports the development of the individual to achieve self-esteem, self-confidence and self-discipline. It promotes the vision of Edmund Rice, as stated in the EREA Charter Touchstones, by providing safe learning environments to all the students who attend the College.

Student Wellbeing at St. Bernard's College is primarily informed by the following 6 policies:

1. Child Safety and Protection Policy
2. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy
3. Prevention, Recognition & Management of Student Self-Harm Policy
4. Positive Relations Policy
5. Drug Education Policy
6. Student Services Policy a) Counseling Services b) Educational Support Services

Aims

- "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 provide assistance to staff and students. Some of these students require educational support to manage learning disabilities while others need guidance and counselling in order 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.

Aims (continued)

- 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.

Policy Review

Ratified:	24 June 2020
Last Reviewed:	June 2020
Next Review Date:	June 2023