



# Nunawading Christian College Secondary

## Student Wellbeing Policy

### Document Control

Revision Number	Implementation Date	Review Date	Description of Changes	Prepared By	Approved By
1	2006	2011		NCCS Admin	School Council
2	March 2017	February 2020	NSCP changes	NCCS Admin	School Council

## Rationale

Nunawading Christian College (Secondary) adopted the Student Wellbeing Policy because:

- It is the responsibility of the College to oversee the wellbeing of all students under its care,
- All students, created in the image of their Maker, are of eternal worth and significance; thus their wellbeing is of paramount concern,
- Students have the right to a school in which they can develop their talents and feel comfortable, safe and secure,
- No student should be made to feel inferior or peculiar because of gender, ethnic background or religious affiliation.

## Aims

The Aims of the Student Wellbeing Policy are to:

- Create a happy, safe and secure environment that will nurture all students and assist them in reaching their potential in a wide range of areas,
- Provide support for students dealing with personal issues that impact on adolescent development,
- Ensure that all students feel safe and secure while at Nunawading Christian College (Secondary),
- Ensure that staff model the love of God while carrying out their daily duties,
- Implement strategies that develop and enhance students' confidence, wellbeing and sense of belonging within the school community and belonging to God.

## Policy Overview

The Student Wellbeing Policy involves the following:

1. The relatively small size of the school facilitates a sense of intimacy and cohesion where individuals can attain a unique identity and acceptance; for in a small school, every student can be involved. Below average class size contributes to a feeling of warmth and uniqueness. Extra curricular activities provide scope for pursuing interests and achieving a positive self-concept. Social interaction and leadership are fostered in these activities.

Participation and achievement in sports and other activities are publicly acknowledged and affirmed.

2. The College will implement the following strategies to ensure the wellbeing of students:
  - Staff Worship
  - Student Representative Council
  - Homeroom groups for morning worship and briefing
  - Peer Support program
  - Recognition of Achievement
  - Positive Behaviour 4 Learning program
  - Chaplain and Welfare Officer
  - Chapel
  - Week of Worship
  - Personal mentoring (by teachers, Chaplain or Student Welfare Officer)
  - Provision for sick students
  - Academic and Career Guidance

### Staff Worship

During the daily staff worship (meeting) each morning, teachers have the opportunity discuss student progress, academic, social, spiritual and emotional. We also make student wellbeing a matter of prayer.

### Student Representative Council

1. Students have the opportunity to voice their constructive suggestions in school matters via the Student Representative Council (SRC). Each year level elects two representatives to articulate their viewpoints.
2. The School Captains (elected by students during the latter part of the previous year and announced at Speech Night) are ex-officio on this committee and a staff adviser chairs it. This group meets regularly and gives students experience in selection, prioritisation and rational discussion of issues, presentation of their case in a positive manner, and organisation of events. The SRC is empowered to organise fundraising events, the proceeds from which may be used for some chosen project or given to a charity;

### Homeroom groups for morning worship and briefing

1. During the daily homeroom sessions each morning, teachers have the opportunity discuss issues relating to the progress, both academic and social, of students and make their well being a matter of prayer for the day;
2. Students have the opportunity to ask questions and to ask for prayer
3. Yr 12 students lead out in Yr 7-11 homeroom worship once a week, fostering peer connections and spiritual mentoring.

### Peer Support Program

1. Groups of three or four Year 11 student volunteers are paired with a group of five Year 7 students at the start of the year to form clusters for mutual support.
2. Aside from team building activity days at the start of the year, each cluster meets regularly in a formal setting organised by the Yr 7 Coordinator and informally during lunchtimes to continue to build the relationship and to encourage and support the Year 7 students. During these times, individual nurturing of each member can take place. The mixed age and maturity levels can acquaint juniors with seniors and allow for some of the benefits of peer counselling. This is particularly useful in the early stages of the year to help newcomers assimilate into NCCs life. Seniors can share experiences and instill a worthwhile ethos;

### Recognition of Achievement

At Speech Night each year, awards are presented to students, recognising a variety of achievements or contributions to the College program. The awards include Academic, Citizenship and Achievement prizes in each year level. Also, specific subject/department awards are issued. Names of the School Captains, Sportspersons-of-the-Year and Dux are all entered on the Honour Board and publicly displayed in the library foyer;

### Positive Behaviour 4 Learning program

Positive behaviour is a prerequisite to improving the engagement and achievement of our children and young people. This is a whole school program focusing on building a positive school culture that supports learning and positive behaviour. Focus values for 2017 include Respect, Resilience, Responsibility and Integrity.

### Chaplain and Welfare Officer

The College participates in, and benefits from, the Chaplaincy program of the Victorian Seventh-day Adventist Conference. In addition, a Welfare Officer is employed, funded by the

Federal Government's National School Chaplaincy Program. The combination of these roles ensures that support is available for the emotional wellbeing of students by providing pastoral care services and strategies that assist students and the broader school community. When required, external support may be sought from allied health professionals.

On any given day, students will have access to either the Chaplain or the Welfare Officer. Both interact with students on campus, take part in excursions and school programs as well as being available in their offices for individual mentoring and assistance. Students who wish to speak to the Chaplain or Welfare Officer may gain exemption from class.

Students wanting to receive support from the Student Welfare Officer will require parental consent.

### Chapel Program

The weekly Chapel speakers are chosen so that coverage of a range of relevant youth issues is addressed. Senior students take much of the responsibility for organising the weekly chapels by leading out in singing, scripture reading and/or introducing the speaker. Students have input into selecting Chapel speakers and volunteer to speak themselves on issues relevant to them.

### Week of Worship

This is a special week (usually in Term 1), when students are challenged spiritually, socially and emotionally to make decisions of far reaching consequence. Students participate in the running of this program.

### Personal Support

The College has a qualified social worker on staff. The Welfare Officer is qualified to support students and to refer students for additional help if necessary. However, all staff are role models and mentors to individual students. Students may consult with any of the teachers by seeking advice on personal and academic problems. From time to time, there may arise issues (personal or relationship) that require more specialised referral; in this case staff should consult the Welfare Officer for advice as to the network person in the community best equipped to deal with the particular concern. In the case of perceived academic or discrimination issues, the Principal and/or the Assistant Principal is to be consulted. Referrals to Child FIRST are made for any matters of a serious nature or where additional support may be required.

### Provision for Sick Students

A sick bay facility exists in the student reception office area. Students requiring this room report to Student Reception after having informed their current teacher of the illness or accident. In

case of an accident on school premises, an Incident Report Form must be filled out and placed on permanent file with the Office Manager or Principal;

### Academic and Career Guidance

1. As soon as practical each year, the College convenes an Information Night for new Year 7 students and their parents to assist in the transition from Primary to Secondary school. This night also serves to acquaint parents with College expectations and allows parents to meet teachers.
2. A Transition program for Grade 6 students at the primary campus is held throughout the year. An Orientation Day for all new/prospective students is held in Term 4 of each year.
3. Students are informed about tertiary institutions, the courses of study they offer, and prerequisites and ATAR scores expected for entry. Students entering the VCE/Year 11 receive guidance as they select from a range of subjects. Senior school teachers advise students what each subject involves and where it leads. Parents are encouraged to attend VCE information sessions at the start of the year. Year 10 parents attend a VCE Information evening where course advice and subject selection matters are discussed, enabling them to assist their child to make wise choices.
4. Career testing for Year 10 students is conducted in Term 2 to assist with Career advice. Year 12 students receive individual career advice on request and are given Career Match access to further consolidate and support their career decision process. Year 10 and 11 students attend an annual Career Expo to further equip themselves with career-relevant information.
5. The Work Experience program at Nunawading Christian College (Secondary) for all Year 10 students is intended to give them a first hand feel for the workplace. The five-day experience results in a report on each student involved;

### Related policies

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

These include:

- Pastoral Care Policy
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Digital Technologies Acceptable Use Policy & Procedures
- Child Safe Code of Conduct

- Complaints and Appeals Policy
- Child Safe Recruitment Policy
- Guidelines for Complaints
- Statement of Commitment To Child Safety
- Child Safe Policy
- Child Safe Protection Policy
- Information Communication Technology Acceptable Use Policy
- Education Outside of the Classroom Policy & Practices
- Behaviour Management 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.