

SMMC Albury-Pastoral Care Policy

Pastoral care is the responsibility of all members of the school community including staff, students, parents and other family members. While the school prepares our students academically, it is also seen that the school has a vital role to play in the holistic development of our students especially in their social and emotional development. At our school we create a caring, safe and secure environment by the implementation of policies (e.g. Anti-Bully Policy) and procedures which ensure the physical and emotional security of our students. We also monitor the progress of our student, liaise with the parents, help and guide our student through critical transitional times and provide a contact for support and counselling. Our aim is to promote the development of quality relationships and high standards of behaviour and discipline.

Character Development and Virtues

Fostering the development of virtues is pivotal at Saint Mary MacKillop College. The four core human qualities through which character is forged are:

Justice manifested in personal responsibility:

Each person has certain duties to perform at home, at school and in the wider community. By adolescence, young people begin to hold their destiny and that of others in their hands. Action or inaction has consequences. An understanding of Justice in conjunction with their religious education, will lead them to act rightly.

Good Judgement

The ability to judge what is right in each situation and following a worthy set of values in keeping with their faith.

Personal Fortitude Development of a personal strength which enables one to persevere in things that are worthwhile.

Self Control The ability to exercise self-discipline in a myriad of ways.

All other virtues flow from these four. Working with parents Saint Mary MacKillop Colleges aims to empower its students to become competent, responsible, considerate, and committed persons.

The Study of the Virtues

1. At the staff meeting it is collectively decided the virtue to be concentrated on by the school at large, for the coming month.
2. The class teachers reflect upon and express ideas relating to the virtues in focus.
3. The newsletter contains something pertaining to the virtue being focused upon. This provides practical pointers and thought provoking material for parents.
4. Parent Evenings: Virtues are the focus of some Parent Functions.

Parent Functions

Parent Functions are an important feature of Saint Mary MacKillop College. They provide an education on- going programme to assist parents in the education of their children and in the dynamics of parenting. Parent Functions are held each term.

Sample of Topics

1. Education in Human Love: A Parental Responsibility
2. The value of waiting; Helping teens with a fever to live fast.
3. Motivation in the Middle School

Spiritual Aspect

The Spiritual Development of the students at Saint Mary MacKillop College forms an integral part of its philosophy of personalised education. The school stresses the primary role parents play in their children's spiritual development.

Students, regardless of their particular religious faith, are encouraged to foster their relationship with God and to develop their spiritual life with a genuine spirit of freedom and commitment. This enables them to be enriched as human beings and to be excellent persons in every sense of the word.

The Religion Programme which is offered gives students the opportunity to acquire a deep understanding of the Catholic Faith and its practice. Intrinsic to this is the greatest respect for the freedom of consciences.

The School has a priest say mass in the Chapel each Friday. This is attended by all the students.

Students have the opportunity to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.

Each term a major Feast Day of the Catholic Church is celebrated.

Community Service

The aim of our Community Service Scheme is to assist students in realising their potential to give of their time, energy and talent to others. The scheme involves each student's completion of some hours of service over the school year.

Saint Mary MacKillop College chooses activities of benefit to either the school or community. This community service is usually carried out on a major Feast Day. Eg. A visit to the nursing home by the students.

Communication

A fortnightly newsletter will be sent home to parents. Parents are encouraged to raise concerns they have with their child's classroom teacher. An appointment can be made with the classroom teacher or the Principal if required. If requested a review of a given situation can be made by a Director of the school on request. Any grievance handled in a formal way by the Principal or Director will be documented and the action taken as a result also documented. Procedural Fairness will be exercised at all time as outlined in Teacher's Policies Appendix 1.

External Studies

The school will ensure the safety and welfare of students while undertaking study with any outside school approved tutor or external provider.