

PURPOSE

The purpose of this statement is to outline the framework of policies that support student welfare and foster a safe and supportive environment at Wyong Christian Community School.

This document is to be read in conjunction with:

- Child Protection Policy & Procedure
- Anti-Bullying & Cyberbullying Policy
- Discipline Policy
- Pastoral Care Policy
- Counselling Services Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Critical Incident Policy
- First Aid & Medication Policy
- 'High Risk Foods – Minimised' Policy
- Flood Evacuation Policy
- Emergency Lockdown Policy
- Bushfire, Fire & Bomb Evacuation Policy

DEFINITIONS

Student welfare encompasses the mental, physical and emotional wellbeing of the student. Student welfare policies are essential for developing a sense of self-worth and fostering personal development.

A **safe environment** for students is one where the risk of harm is minimised, and students feel secure.

A **supportive environment** fosters the spiritual, social, academic, physical and emotional development of students. A supportive environment can be described as one in which:

- students are treated with respect and fairness by staff and other students;
- members of the school community feel valued;
- effective teaching and learning takes place;
- positive support and encouragement are provided by members of staff and students; and
- consultation takes place on matters relating to students' education and welfare.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Principal:

- provides leadership and direction;
- provides staff support and opportunities for Professional Development;
- encourages and fosters a caring climate within the school; and
- liaises with stakeholders regarding policies and programs.

The staff:

- seek to encourage students in their identity in Christ;
- provide challenging and interesting learning experiences;
- seek to enhance the self-esteem of all students;
- are sensitive to the welfare needs of all students; and
- provide support and guidance for all students.

The students:

- actively participate in all aspects of school life;
- are sensitive to the needs of others;
- support and follow the school rules; and
- support the student welfare initiatives within the school.

POLICY STATEMENT

Student welfare encompasses everything that the school community does to meet the spiritual, personal and social needs of the students and enhance their wellbeing. It involves recognising, valuing and developing each student as a total and unique person in God's sight. This is consistent with WCCS's mission and vision.

Wyong Christian Community School:

- reflects its Christian values in the way it cares for the whole person, paying attention to the individual needs of each student; and
- encourages students to achieve their full potential in all aspects – spiritual, academic, emotional, social and physical.

Framework

Student welfare sits within the framework of four main policies:

1. Discipline Policy
2. Child Protection Policy & Procedure
3. Anti-Bullying & Cyberbullying Policy
4. Pastoral Care Policy

It does, however, encompass other policies relating to the provision of a safe and supportive environment, as outlined on page 1.

Aims

Through the structures, practices and programs outlined in our policies, the school aims to contribute to the general personal development of students by promoting opportunities for them to:

- develop understanding and skills in communication and interpersonal relationships;
- develop a realistic and comprehensive view of self;
- enhance their self-esteem;
- develop their interests and abilities;
- develop their personal values within a framework of Christian teaching and those of broadly accepted community values;

- understand their own feelings and behaviour and those of others;
- positively value cultural differences;
- be caring and supportive of others; and
- contribute positively to the life of the school community.