



A hope and a future.

Student Welfare, Counselling & Chaplaincy

Policy and Procedures

Rationale

This policy and procedures outline how the Summerland Christian College supports student welfare and wellbeing.

This Policy and the associated Procedures are based on the 5 Core Values of Summerland Christian College.

1. Christ Centred.

Here at Summerland, we believe students thrive best in a supportive Christian environment. That's why we strive to create a caring and faith inspiring setting built on God's love. We provide a supportive Christian environment. Colossians 2:2-3

2. Academic Achievement.

Here at Summerland, we are committed to helping our students achieve outstanding academic results. Our dedicated teachers pursue excellence through innovative approaches to learning and by helping our students achieve their best. We have proven academic success. Isaiah 40:31

3. Personalised Education.

Here at Summerland, we believe God has created every student with a unique set of gifts and distinctive potential. That's why we are committed to providing unique pathways for each individual, enriching their development whilst adding academic value to their lives. We seek God's wisdom beyond the earthly in our teaching approach. We value the individual. Ephesians 2:10

4. Partnering with Parents.

Here at Summerland, we believe that students excel when parents and teachers combine for a tailored and supportive approach to their education. That's why we facilitate and encourage parental insights and participation in each child's learning and academic progress. We encourage partnership with each family. Proverbs 22:6

5. The Living Word.

Here at Summerland, we stand on the Word of God and its scriptures as foundational and life transforming. We believe that the Bible is God breathed and our handbook for wise choices and joyful living. We acknowledge our dependence on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to live as God intended. We are Bible based. Joshua 1:8

Student Welfare

We recognise that learning and positive behaviours are enhanced by positive relationships, effective pastoral care and supportive school systems and procedures.

Our student welfare, counselling and chaplaincy processes aim to meet and support the emotional needs of students including:

- Recognition
- Love
- Interest
- Help
- Direction
- Freedom
- Hope

Strategies to support the welfare and wellbeing of our students include:

- Care for the physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual and social well-being of our students;
- Equip and support class teachers who will specifically meet the pastoral care of the students in their class (Primary) or home room (Secondary);
- Implement small pastoral care groups where necessary;
- Collaborate with parents to support their children; and
- Promote students' care for each other via, buddy systems, training, expectations, counselling, peer mediation, peer support and general encouragement.

Counselling

A counselling service is available at the College to assist students and staff. Students may access the student Counsellor by:

- By staff referral;
- Students requesting to see the counsellor; or
- Parents and carers requesting counselling services for their child.

Ongoing counselling support for students requires permission from parents or carers. Counselling appointments will be organized by the counsellor according to availability of time and priority of need.

The College will recommend the use of professional counsellors outside the College as needed. The College may also seek outside services to provide support for students and staff which include:

- Psychologist for psychological and academic assessment;
- Mentors – providing support for 'at risk' children;
- Family and Community Services and support workers;
- Social Workers to provide services such as counselling, social skills and anger management programs;
- Youth agencies; and
- Local parent support groups

The College will endeavour to cater for children identified with specific welfare issues by creating support groups, developing appropriate individual programs including goals, monitoring performance and behaviour, and providing ongoing support.

The Role and Availability of the School Counsellor at Summerland Christian College.

The College employs a counsellor 9 days per fortnight to counsel students on the premises during school hours. The primary purpose of the counselling service is to:

- provide students with welfare and wellbeing support;
- recommend appropriate referrals to parents; and
- support students who are facing personal or emotional challenges.

Formal counselling sessions are conducted in the counsellor's office; while informal meetings and support may occur at lunchtime or recess when the counsellor may sit with students and talk or pray with them.

This service comes under the direction and authority of the College Principal. Appointments will be allocated first to those students deemed by the Principal, Heads of School or counsellor to be in greatest need.

Our College will comply with all privacy issues in accordance with current legislation and Government requirements.

Heads of School Referral Procedures

The Counsellor and Chaplain are to arrange separate meetings with the Heads of School by the second week of each term and list students who are on the list to see who require counselling or chaplaincy support.

Students are prioritized according to.

1. Emergency care students. Due to significant circumstances these students need immediate access to the counsellor or chaplain. These students may require short-term intense support.
2. Students needing high levels of counselling and intervention. Where possible these students would need to be seen immediately and then weekly.
3. Group interventions where groups receive counselling or chaplaincy support to work through similar issues; or
4. Check-in students. These students are functioning well and only require intermittent checking in to make sure they are still travelling well e.g once a month.

Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy service is provided by the College to support student wellbeing by:

- providing pastoral care to the College community;
- providing support to students making significant spiritual decisions;
- developing and conduct small groups/clubs/Christian programs in the College;
- developing and promoting preventative and proactive student welfare programs;
- coordinate College missions trips;
- informing appropriate staff of student welfare issues;
- coordinating and leading creative and dynamic school worship services/assemblies;
- involvement in co-curricular activities, camps and excursions, as appropriate;
- assisting with the development of Christian service and mission opportunities;
- contributing to communications such as newsletters, magazines and annual report;
- attending major out of school hours College events and celebrations; and
- connecting with churches, and government and community support services.

Students may access the College Chaplain by:

- Students requesting to see the Chaplain;
- By staff referral; or
- Parents and carers requesting chaplaincy support for their child.