STUDENTS AT RISK POLICY

Whilst this policy is aimed at providing support generally for “Students at Risk”, implicit in it, is the inclusion of approaches to deal with issues relating to Youth Suicide Prevention. Marcellin College aims to promote a healthy, supportive and secure environment for students with targeted support for students at risk.

Student welfare is a shared responsibility between the College, home and the community. Marcellin College should be a positive environment in which all teachers assume responsibility for student welfare and each student is provided with successful experiences. All students shall have access to welfare and support services. Clear, well known communication processes and protocols are critical to the effectiveness of student welfare support.

STUDENTS AT RISK PROCEDURES

The Deputy Headmaster will be responsible for the coordination and implementation of this policy.

The College shall implement welfare support structures and programs that prioritise and address the identified needs of students. The stages at which support may be provided are:

- **Primary Prevention**: programs that develop resilience, through enhanced life skills and protective factors.
- **Early Intervention**: strategies and processes that assess and manage individuals and groups identified as ‘at risk’.
- **Intervention**: provision of crisis support for individuals exhibiting ‘at risk’ behaviours.
- **Postvention**: implement a critical incident response plan including counselling.

Protocols should designate stages where it is necessary to respect the confidential nature of dealing with student welfare issues. It is noted, however, that **students who disclose to staff a desire to harm themselves or others, must be reported by staff to the Headmaster**.

Welfare programs and student services provision will be supported by funding and, where possible, time release for teachers to enable:

- Employment of services to conduct support programs which focus on addressing student welfare issues
- Individual and group student counselling
- Skill development for students, teachers and parents.
- Professional Development of key staff who will convey knowledge/ideas to staff.

Where a decision needs to be made regarding the appropriate nature of curriculum content for the teaching and learning of issues which may relate to “student at risk behaviours” it shall be referred to the Deputy Headmaster. The Deputy Headmaster will forward their recommendation to the Headmaster for a final decision.

Students may be recommended to see the College Counsellor by any staff member who would inform the Year Coordinator, Deputy Headmaster or Headmaster. Students are also able to approach the Counsellor directly. The Counsellor will inform the Headmaster of any issues relevant to DOCs and then will deal directly with the Department.
(Note: There is considerable evidence to recommend that Youth Suicide is not taught in schools as a means of addressing ‘at risk’ behaviour, and various Education Departments have varying policies as to whether or not schools teach ‘suicide’ as a curriculum topic).

For school based case management of known students, a structure shall provide for continuity of care through a process of coordination with other agencies and transition.

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