Mid North Christian College
Hope in the Living God

LOCATION
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South Australia 5540

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Student Health Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Purpose

This policy describes Mid North Christian College's practices for managing the health, safety, and wellbeing of all our students. Mid North Christian College is seeking to ensure that systems are in place to promote and support the health, safety, and wellbeing of students when at the College or involved in College activities.

The purpose of this document is to ensure Mid North Christian College promotes student safety and wellbeing in all learning experiences by:

- Providing an environment and curriculum that support students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to manage their own health and wellbeing and to support that of others
- Aligning student safety, welfare and curriculum policies

Throughout this document, the term 'parent' has been used to refer to both parents and carers, which includes individuals who have assumed responsibility for the role of primary caregiver for a child or young person, such as guardians, grandparents, or other family members.

Background

Mid North Christian College (MNCC) recognises that the social, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing of students is of key importance to their success at school. The College also recognises that student safety and wellbeing is a shared responsibility between the College, home and the community. MNCC will adopt a proactive and strategic stance on issues of student safety and wellbeing, rather than solely being reactive.

"Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again." **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

Guiding Principles

Several guiding principles and practices have helped guide Mid North Christian College's development of the Student Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy.

In alignment with the Australian Student Wellbeing Framework, Mid North Christian College is committed to:

- Visible leadership to inspire positive school communities;
- Inclusive and connected school culture;
- Authentic student voice and participation;
- Effective family and community partnerships; and
- Understanding wellbeing and support for positive behaviour.

The College is dedicated to prioritising the welfare and wellbeing of students, and it will be addressing both matters through various approaches that align with the needs of both the students and the College.

Policy Objectives

The objectives of Mid North Christian College's Student Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy include:

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- Reinforcing that the emotional and physical wellbeing of students is pivotal to their success at school, as children and young people, and in their future lives;
- Promoting the provision of a safe, healthy, and secure learning environment for all;
- Ensuring awareness of relevant health, safety and wellbeing strategies and practices implemented by the school;
- Ensuring that all reported incidents relating to student health, safety and wellbeing are dealt with in an appropriate manner;
- Identifying how the school will develop environments that are engaging, supportive and conducive to learning; and
- Identifying links to other relevant policies within the school, for example, the Harassment and Bullying Prevention Policy, and to encourage students to take active steps in tackling bullying, prejudice and other behaviours that have a negative impact on wellbeing.

Duty of Care

In the education and care context, 'duty of care' is a moral or legal obligation to ensure the safety or wellbeing of others. In all education contexts, schools and teachers have a duty to take or exercise 'reasonable care' to protect all students, including those aged 18 years and over, from risks of harm that are 'reasonably foreseeable' whilst they are involved in school activities or are present for the purpose of a school activity.

In their relationships with children and young people, staff of Mid North Christian College are committed to ensuring that the physical and emotional welfare of children and young people is safeguarded, and that their own behaviour is guided by this duty of care both within and beyond the education and care setting.

Mid North Christian College has a responsibility for providing a duty of care to students which includes:

- Managing student supervision, visitors to school, after school collection, student privacy and supporting shared parental responsibilities; and
- Providing a safe environment which incorporates:
    - Protection and support against bullying, harassment, discrimination, and violence;
    - Undertaking preventative measures to address the risk of inappropriate alcohol consumption and misuse of drugs;
    - Abiding by mandatory reporting requirements and police protocols;
    - Meeting the planning and implementation requirements for excursions and activities; and

Learning Environment

Mid North Christian College recognises that a positive learning environment supports students' personal and social development and wellbeing and should aim to provide rich learning environments that are open, respectful, caring, and safe.

Mid North Christian College seeks to do this by:

- Developing and communicating an explicit commitment to wellbeing;
- Acknowledging individual differences and providing opportunities for all students to learn and succeed;

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- Ensuring students have opportunities to participate in some school decision-making processes;
- Applying consistent whole-school expectations and practices that are:
    - Collaboratively developed with students and the broader school community;
    - Clearly explained;
    - Positively enforced; and
    - Rewarding those actions and attitudes the College wishes to promote;
- Providing student wellbeing and pastoral care support for students;
- Maintaining safe physical spaces, including a cyber environment that maximises staff and student safety; and
- Providing effective mechanisms for dealing with concerns and grievances.
- Having clear College rules and behaviour management strategies, well understood values, strategies to recognise achievement and support structures for student to provide an environment where students can feel safe and valued and their welfare can be paramount
- Providing professional development opportunities to upskill staff in their ability to support students in the wellbeing area
- Developing a culture of positive reinforcement will be encouraged in all aspects of the College based on biblical instructions to build one another up
- Provide student wellbeing support through counsellor and pastoral care support

Curriculum and Pedagogy

There are multiple ways that Mid North Christian College will build the foundations for wellbeing through the curriculum, including:

- Explicitly teaching the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, and Personal and Social Capability; and
- Equipping students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and strategies to understand and manage themselves and their relationships
- Provide an integrated and comprehensive curriculum approach that incorporates equitable opportunities for all students to enhance their own and others' wellbeing through their daily learning experiences

One of the key programs used across the College is the implementation of the BRIDGE BUILDERS® program developed by Empowering Life Skills as the foundation of our behaviour and wellbeing program. BRIDGE BUILDERS® is a whole school approach to equipping children to be resilient, effective communicators and empowered to deal with everyday conflict and reduce bullying.

Mid North Christian College also recognises that pedagogy which enhances wellbeing is known to:

- Be responsive to the individual needs of students;
- Identify areas where focused support or intervention is required; and

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- Build positive relationships between teacher and students.

Relevant Policies and Procedures

Mid North Christian College has policies and procedures in place to manage the following health, safety and wellbeing elements relating to students:

- Behaviour Improvement Policy
- Child Safe Environments Policy
- Bullying and Harassment Prevention Policy
- Grievance Policy and Procedure
- Students with Disabilities Policy
- Learning Support Policy
- Administration of Medication Policy & Procedure
- Allergy & Anaphylaxis Policy & Procedures
- Infectious Disease Prevention Policy
- Head Lice Policy & Procedure
- Sun Protection Policy & Procedure
- WHS Policy and Handbook
- Extreme Weather Policy & Procedure
- Camps, Excursions and Incursions Policy
- Medical, Sickness and First Aid Policy

Legislative Context

Education and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011 (SA)

Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (SA)

Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)

Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)

Relevant Frameworks

Protective Practices for Staff in their Interactions with Children and Young People

The Australian Student Wellbeing Framework

END OF POLICY

Authorisations

Policy Reviewer: Principal Rachel Richardson

Approval by: Board

Board Approval required: Yes

New or Revised Policy: Revised

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Approved date of Policy: 19/9/23
Next Review date: End of 2025
Last Updated: 28/8/23