

Social Justice Policy

Prepared by: The Ministry Team

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the *Ave Maria College External Activities Financial Support Policy (2010)*, *Social Justice; Guidelines for Action and Fundraising (CEOM 2012)*, and the *Ave Maria College Social Justice Protocols (2010)*.

The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well.

Gaudium et Spes, para 1

Mission

As stated in the Mission Statement: *'with integrity and compassion, we are driven to answer the Gospel call for those in need, wherever they may be'*. Ave Maria College fully supports and is committed to the mission of social justice, which flows from the Scriptures, as undertaken by the Catholic Church. Faithful to our Franciscan charism and following the principles of Catholic social teaching, Ave Maria College offers members of the school community opportunities to become more involved in the social mission of the Catholic Church.

Objectives

The Social Justice Policy at Ave Maria College intends to:

- a) Give students opportunities to put gospel values into practice
- b) Provide opportunities for students to be involved in outreach
- c) Raise student awareness of the local, national and international communities
- d) Foster a sense of enrichment in students through their experience of outreach
- e) Encourage students to reflect on experiences of outreach
- f) Develop specific skills in service and advocacy

Consequences

The College will:

1. Continue to deliver a curriculum based on Gospel values as expressed in Catholic social teaching. As such, it calls for acts of solidarity and education about the common good. It is tied to attitudinal formation that occurs within the curriculum and the co-curricular program of the school.
2. Make social justice initiatives within the College evident in the formal curriculum and through co-curricular activities.
3. Support major Catholic community organisations at each year level, chosen with reference to the relevance of the organisation to the Religious Education curriculum at each level.
4. Support new initiatives and organisations seeking support, and other opportunities that occur where appropriate.
5. Encourage students to go beyond the classroom and engage in social justice action and outreach activities, with particular attention to the charism of Helene de Chappotin and the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.
6. Encourage staff participation in and support of social justice action and outreach with students.

Ratified by: Board of Governance

Date: 26 March 2013