

Student Counselling Policy

Formulated by: Student Counsellor, Deputy Principal with assistance from the Catholic Education Office, Melbourne. The purpose of this policy is to assimilate into the structure and goals of Ave Maria College (see current Strategic Plan) the guidelines under which School Counsellors in schools are expected to work.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following documents: *CEOM 2009 Policy 2.26 Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools*, *Australian Psychological Society (APS) Code of Ethics (October 1997; revised October 1999, Sep 2002, Oct 2003)*, and *APS paper titled Framework for Delivery of School Psychological Services (March 2013)*; *AMC Wellbeing Policy*, *Mandatory Reporting Guidelines* and any other professional codes pertaining to the formal qualifications and registrations of the School Counsellor.

Mission Statement

"Thus the Ave Maria College community encourages our young women to develop the goodness in themselves and to share their God-given gifts, in living by Gospel values"

"As a Catholic school, we wish to guide each young woman to develop as a whole person, striving for excellence in all her endeavours."

Intentions

Our *Student Counselling Policy* will:

1. Facilitate educational and personal growth for students.
2. Assist students to develop skills to learn effectively and to maintain positive attitudes and behaviours.
3. Provide assistance to students experiencing difficulties that are outside the pastoral role and/or professional expertise of the student's Homeroom teacher and Year Level Team Leader.

Consequences

The College will:

1. Require the Student Counsellor to practice according to their professional codes. For example, for psychologists employed as Student Counsellors the *Code of Professional Conduct of the Australian Psychological Society (APS)* would apply.
2. Define confidentiality to mean "the privacy of information obtained in a relationship of trust between a counsellor and a client".
3. Allow students to approach the school counsellor to discuss issues of concern with the expectation of confidentiality.
4. Require that the conditions of confidentiality are explained to students during their first counselling appointment.
5. Require the Student Counsellor to maintain effective communication with relevant parties within the boundaries of the guidelines pertaining to confidentiality.
6. Facilitate parental involvement with counselling services when relevant and necessary.
7. Recommend that the student attend an outside agency (general health / mental health / welfare) if the student requires support beyond the means of the Ave Maria College counselling service.
8. Discuss referral, where appropriate, with the parent/s or guardian/s and the student prior to the referral being made.
9. Require the Student Counsellor to be part of the Student Wellbeing Team (SWT) to proactively support Year Level Wellbeing programs
10. Require the Student Counsellor to provide educational services to students and staff relevant to student wellbeing issues as required

Ratified: College Executive

Date: Nov 2001, revised 2006, reviewed March 2009, reviewed April 2016