

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 the guidelines under which Psychologists 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)*, and *APS paper titled Standards for the Delivery of School Psychological Services (March 2000)*.

Mission Statement

"Assisting each to gain a strong sense of self through a full, creative and life-giving membership of the College community."

Intentions

Our Student Counselling Policy will:

1. Facilitate educational and personal success for students.
2. Assist students 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 Coordinator.

Consequences

The College will:

1. Require the Student Psychologist to practice according to the Code of Professional Conduct of the Australian Psychological Society (APS). The Code applies to psychologists but not to teachers.
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. Encourage parental involvement.
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.

Ratified: Leadership Team

Date: Nov 2001, revised 2006, reviewed March 2009