

John Paul College Policy

SCHOOL COUNSELLING SERVICES

RATIONALE

John Paul College, as a Catholic and La Sallian school, is committed to each student's intellectual, spiritual, emotional, physical and social development. The school's counselling services are provided primarily for students to ensure a safe emotional and physical environment that allows students to explore difficulties and concerns and to identify and remove barriers to achievement.

PURPOSE

1. To provide a professional and confidential counselling service for all students in the context of Catholic moral teaching.
2. To assist students to explore their difficulties and concerns including academic progress and to develop their capabilities and resilience to enable them to attain their learning potential.
3. To assist students to grow and develop as a person through understanding and taking responsibility for their mental, physical, emotional, spiritual and general well-being.
4. To provide expertise in promoting positive relationships and healthy communication between staff, students, peers and families.
5. To provide expertise to support all staff in their pastoral and teaching roles.
6. To provide opportunities to resolve issues in student-teacher relationships
7. To support students who are not achieving or at risk of not achieving in collaboration with other staff – Deans, classroom teachers, careers staff.
8. To access support from a variety of external agencies and social services.
9. To advocate on behalf of students when their psychological or emotional safety is compromised.

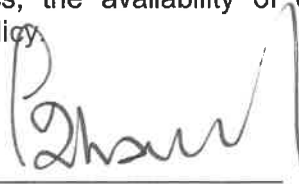
GUIDELINES

1. Student confidentiality will be respected in accord with the Privacy Act, the Health and Disability Services, Consumers Code of Rights and the New Zealand Association of Counsellors Code of Ethics
2. The Principal must approve the selection and appointment of any counsellor.
3. The College reserves the right to ensure that any on-site counsellor offers services that are consistent with the special character of the College and Catholic moral teaching.
4. Counselling and information will be provided in accordance with Catholic moral teaching. In cases where students are assessed to be at risk, information will be provided to them to ensure their safety. This may include information about other agencies, which are known to respect the beliefs of Catholic clients referred to them.
5. In accordance with (3), the provision of, organisation of, or referral for termination of pregnancy, and the provision of contraceptives will not be offered by the College's Counsellor.
6. The College will respect the right of parents/caregivers to exclude their children from counselling services. Should the student seek support or guidance from the counsellors, the student will be advised of the parents' request and any continuation of counselling will be at the discretion of the counsellor.
7. The school's counselling services exist primarily for the benefit of students. However counselling services for staff may be appropriate to resolve issues in student-teacher relationships.
8. Where the actions of a staff member are damaging to a student's psychological and emotional well-being, the counsellor may advocate on behalf of that student to facilitate a resolution.
9. Any other counselling issues involving staff should be referred to the DP Human Resources with the staff member's approval.
10. The Principal, staff members, and Counsellor will co-operate to support the learning and advance the well-being of all students.
 - i. Counsellor(s) will work in a collaborative and consultative way with Deans, DP Student Management, form teachers, careers staff, school nurse and those with pastoral responsibilities in the College.

- ii. Where appropriate and within the bounds of confidentiality, information will be shared with staff so students are effectively supported.
 - iii. Staff who identify students at risk of not achieving or who are failing to perform to expectation may refer the student to a counsellor for support.
11. Counsellors, as part of their specialist role, will assist in and provide expertise to Deans and teachers to develop appropriate strategies to meet the individual needs of students.
 12. Counsellors will regularly attend Deans' meetings and inform staff of important recommendations regarding students' welfare and /or barriers to achievement.
 13. Recognising the role of parents and caregivers, counsellors will seek and encourage the involvement of parents/caregivers and the family General Practitioner where appropriate, in the services they provide, except where privacy and/or safety requirements prevent it.
 14. Procedures will be in place for staff to refer students to the counsellor, particularly regarding abuse/neglect/violence. Where the assistance of outside agencies might be appropriate, any referrals must be made via the counsellors.
 15. A self-referring process will be in place for students.
 16. John Paul College affirms the right of female students to have access to female counsellors and for male students to have access to a male counsellor where practical.
 17. If at all possible, the school will employ a male and a female guidance counsellor. Where the school has only one counsellor or counsellors of one gender the school will ensure that alternative gender appropriate counselling assistance is available. International students are covered by the Code of Practice.
 18. The College will provide a suitable and appropriate space for the counsellor to work from.
 19. The College will meet the costs of appropriate supervision of the Counsellor(s).
 20. The Board, through the Principal, will monitor the provision of counselling services, by way of an annual report by the Counsellor(s) to ensure that they are meeting their stated aims and objectives and the requirements of this policy.

21. The Board of Trustees would expect that any counsellor employed by the school is a member of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors (NZAC) or an equivalent appropriate professional body with a clear organisational structure, a code of ethics, the availability of on-going professional development and a complaints policy.

Ratified by Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Shaw', written over a horizontal line.

Signed for B.O.T Chair

23.05.2016

Date

Next Review

Signed for B.O.T

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