

MacKillop College



Policy: Community Service

Introduction

Community service involves students voluntarily, without pay, performing some service for the good of others in the wider Community. Examples of community service include donating blood, visiting nursing homes, working with the disabled and collecting for the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal.

Objectives

- Students should be encouraged and supported if they wish to do community service
- We aim to develop in students a sense of responsibility to the community and recognition of the rights and needs of others. For some students, community service can help achieve this
- Community service should be voluntary and appropriate to the age, skills and level of emotional and psychological maturity of the student.

Principles

- Students performing community service should be thoroughly prepared in advance for the situations they may expect to encounter
- While performing community service, students must be supervised by a teacher
- The teacher organising the community service must prepare thoroughly, discussing expectations with all concerned and ensuring parental consent is obtained
- The teacher must ensure the students engage only in appropriate activities. Students must not, for example perform the duties of a nurse, orderly or nursing aid.

Implementation

Principal commitment

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that:

- That the objectives of this policy are integrated into practice

Staff commitment

All staff are responsible for:

- The teacher supervising the community service must make all arrangements as for any excursion. During the community service, the teacher must supervise the students, ensuring they are not placed in situations which are inappropriate for their age and maturity
- All teachers engaging students in Community Service must read and understand their responsibilities as outlined in the following documents: *Excursion Policy*, *DSE Guidelines for Excursions*, *Excursion Application Form*, *Programme Change Summary Sheet*, *Supervision Sheet and Excursion Form*, *CECV Policy 1.14 Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools (CECV 1994)*
- The Deputy Principal (Students & Staff) should approve any Community Service activities

Review Date

This Policy will be reviewed in: January 2009

Signature

Rory Kennedy
(Principal)

Date: _____