



Mackillop College

Policy: Crisis Care and Critical Incidents

Introduction

The College has a duty of care for the physical, psychological, and emotional well-being and safety of its community. It strives to support the wellbeing of our community members at times of personal crisis and after critical incidents.

There are many crises involving community members which can occur at any time in a school. These may include:

- death in a family
- family break-up
- personal relationship problems
- drug or alcohol problems
- suicidal thoughts
- depression and stress
- academic and employment concerns
- adolescent insecurity
- bullying, intimidation or harassment

Each of us has a personal emotional range, within which we manage stressful situations. Critical incidents are events which cause a significant number of people to experience reactions that are beyond their normal emotional range. These may include:

- death of a student or staff member
- tragedy on an excursion or on the way to and from school
- natural disasters
- allegations of sexual misconduct involving students or teachers
- criminal activity involving school staff or students on College premises
- bomb threats

Principles

Mackillop College aims to:

- meet the unique needs of the community in coping with a crisis or critical incident
- provide clear information and communication in responding to crises or critical incidents
- implement procedures in a sensitive and compassionate manner to minimise trauma
- provide appropriate support for students, staff and families within the community dealing with a crisis or critical incident

Objectives

Mackillop College is committed to:

- providing confidential, professional and compassionate support for staff and students in crisis

- ensuring that systems are in place to deal with emergency situations within the College and that those systems include the provision of appropriate care and additional support as needed
- providing accurate and relevant information about critical incidents
- ensuring that information will be dealt with appropriate confidentiality and where necessary within the framework of recognised mandatory reporting requirements
- maintaining effective and prompt crisis management, including school and specialist personnel from the community, to deal with school crisis situations and provide for care, as needed

Implementation

Principal's commitment

The Principal will be responsible for ensuring that:

- appropriate staff are available to carry out the objectives of this policy
- resources and facilities are available to ensure the objectives of this policy are able to be implemented
- staff are aware of any mandatory requirements for reporting student information
- reporting and recording of critical incidents are documented so that evaluation and review of systems, including the provision of care, can be undertaken

Staff commitment

Staff members are required to demonstrate a commitment towards the wellbeing of each member of the College community and should support those responsible for carrying out the objectives of this policy.

Policy last reviewed

July 2010

Rory Kennedy
(Principal)

Date: _____