

STUDENT WELFARE POLICY

Effective from	November 2017
Approved by	The Principal
Policy Owner	The Principal
Policy Administrator	Heads of School
Application	All Students
Last review date	March 2025
Next review date	March 2027
Version	2.0
Published externally	Yes
Related Documents	Student Welfare Protocol (Shortland School) Student Welfare Protocol (Tuncurry School)
File/Functional reference	College Community
NESA reference	B8 Safe and Supportive Environment, B9 Discipline

Margaret Jurd College provides an alternative education setting dedicated to supporting young people who find mainstream schooling challenging.

Our schools are each designed to meet the needs of students requiring tailored support:

Special Schools

Our Special Schools (Shortland and associated campuses) provide specialised support for students who:

- *Live with diagnosed mental health conditions and associated challenging behaviours as defined by the Department of Education and Training;*
- *Have histories of complex trauma; or*
- *Have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).*

Special Assistance Schools

Our Special Assistance Schools (Tuncurry and associated campuses) provide targeted support for students who:

- *Live with mental health conditions and associated challenging behaviours.*

Our Commitment

The College is committed to delivering education that is trauma-informed, inclusive, and individually responsive, ensuring every student has the opportunity to complete their secondary schooling with dignity and support.

1 Purpose

Margaret Jurd College (the College) recognises that students flourish in environments where welfare is integral to teaching and learning. This policy outlines the College's commitment to fostering student wellbeing, creating a supportive educational environment, and ensuring all students have the necessary support to complete their secondary education successfully.

2 Scope

This policy applies to all students enrolled at the College, all employees, and any individuals engaged by the College to provide services to students.

3 Policy Statement

Margaret Jurd College provides a specialised educational setting specifically designed to support disadvantaged students who are unable to thrive in mainstream schooling due to complex trauma, mental health challenges, and other significant barriers.

The College commits to providing a safe and inclusive educational environment where student welfare is prioritised, enabling each individual to develop academically, socially, and emotionally. The College recognises the diversity of student backgrounds, abilities, and interests, aiming to equip all students with the skills and confidence to become self-directed, lifelong learners.

4 Application of Policy

Wellbeing Support

- 4.1 The College's student welfare approach is student-centred, focusing on identifying and addressing individual needs through:
- a) Personalised support plans developed collaboratively with students and families.
 - b) Qualified youth workers providing primary support, facilitated through strong relationships with specialist external providers.
 - c) Active collaboration with parents or carers, community agencies, and specialist services to support comprehensive wellbeing outcomes.
- 4.2 Specific welfare support services provided by the College include:
- d) Individual assessments and goal setting tailored to student needs.
 - e) Qualified youth workers with established referral networks to specialist support services.
 - f) Mental health and wellbeing referrals, including access to external mental health professionals and counselling.
 - g) Provision of nutritious meals, including breakfast, fresh fruit and lunch daily, to support student wellbeing, concentration, and engagement in learning.
 - h) Practical assistance with uniforms, educational resources, and material aid.
 - i) Support with attendance at critical appointments.
 - j) Assistance with completing documentation and accessing support from government and private agencies.
 - k) Comprehensive information provision on available support services and resources.
 - l) Group programs and activities designed to build resilience, social skills, and personal development.

Responsibilities

- 4.3 The Principal and Executive Director have overarching responsibility for implementing and monitoring this policy.
- 4.4 All staff must prioritise student welfare, report welfare concerns, and adhere to established welfare protocols.
- 4.5 Students, parents, and carers are encouraged to engage proactively with the welfare supports available and communicate openly regarding student wellbeing needs.

Recognition and Encouragement

- 4.6 The College encourages positive change and commitment to personal growth of students through a system of rewards and encouragement. Weekly and monthly awards recognise both consistency and individual improvement. All students' efforts are recognised, and their positive efforts are utilised as a tool for encouragement for personal growth.

Monitoring and Review

- 4.7 This policy will be regularly reviewed. Updates will be communicated clearly to all relevant stakeholders.

Variation

- 4.8 The College reserves the right to vary, replace or terminate this policy from time to time.

5 Policy Administration

- 5.1 Definitions, Acronyms & Abbreviations
Nil.

[Attachments /over]

[This protocol is to be followed in accordance with the Student Welfare Policy.]

What	Who	When
Plan for and provide quality education for all students.	Student's Planning Team or Delegate	Initial entry, implementation, review and adapt cycle.
Provide students with targeted wellbeing support and low-level crisis intervention.	Student's Caseworker / Backup Caseworker and/or general Wellbeing team.	In accordance with Individual Plan Schedule and the Preventing and Responding to Aggressive and Intimidating Behaviour Policy
Provide welfare support as listed within the Policy.	All Staff	In accordance with Policy
Provide a system of rewards and encouragement to encourage positive change and commitment to self-improvement.	Head of School or Delegate	Ongoing
Provide students with high level Crisis Intervention Support	Critical Incident Response Team	In accordance with the Critical Incident Response Policy and the Preventing and Responding to Aggressive and Intimidating Behaviour Policy

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