



For the Whole of Their Life

**St. Philip's Christian College
Gosford**

**Counselling for Students Policy
2015**

Document Information

Author/supervisor	CLT
Compliance	
Board of studies	Registered and Accredited Individual Non-Government Schools (NSW) Manual Section 3.6.2 (Student Welfare) Section 3.10.1 (Reporting on changes made to policies)
Legislative requirements	
Other policy relationships	Safe and Supportive Environment - Student Welfare Policy Framework
Document location	
Key dates	
Policy Review	This policy will be reviewed every 3 years, or as needed in line with legislative changes and the requirements of the Association of Independent Schools

The College's policies which are made from time to time are made pursuant to the requirements set out in section 47 of the *Education Act* and of the Board of Studies for registration of the school.



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Rationale

This policy is written in relation to and as a reflection of the Vision, Mission Statement and Core Values of St. Philip's Christian College. In keeping with St Philip's aim of educating the whole child, that is, spirit, mind, body and soul. The Christian counsellor is a resource person provided to help achieve this aim, through focusing on students as individuals and in group situations, from K to 12.

Aims

1. providing confidential, professional and caring support for staff and students in crisis and in need of advice on personal, academic and professional matters
2. ensuring that systems are in place to deal with care and counselling in the school and that those systems include the provision of appropriate follow up care and counselling as needed.

Implementation

School Counselling Services

Counselling should only be given at the school by those professionally trained to do so. The school counsellor also works in conjunction with external services such as Lifeline or Headspace. Teachers should be wary of assuming this role, and refer students and other staff to the appropriate counselling service.

Day-to-day counselling

All staff may at some point find themselves being asked for their advice by students or having to counsel students through difficult periods of their lives. This includes:

- course selection inquiries
- advice on personal matters
- career path information
- guidance in behaviour management
- comforting in crisis situations.

Many of these situations will occur incidentally through the life of the school. However, staff are advised to provide advice with extreme caution and within the limits of their training and qualifications.

External Referral Systems

From time to time the school counsellors will need to refer students to outside professionals. Normally this should only be done after consultation with parents. Heads of schools should also be advised.

Notification to Parents

The need to notify parents that their child is to be seen by a school counsellor should be considered in every case. The age of the student and the nature of the issue will help determine this.

Professional Development Priorities

This school will ensure that:

- staff are aware of any mandatory requirements for reporting student information
- staff are informed about how to recognise students or staff members in crisis or trouble and know where to refer them for appropriate support

Ref: CCH Principal's Legal Guide
CCH Health and Safety Guide