



## **1. Introduction**

*Nazareth College is a learning community centered on the person of Jesus Christ. Through learning and teaching in the Catholic tradition, we foster a culture of faith, wisdom and knowledge.*

At Nazareth College we place an emphasis on whole person development and individual excellence. Our Counselling Policy should be read in conjunction with:

- The College's P4.6 Pastoral Care Policy;
- CECV Policies 1.12 Confidentiality in Catholic education and 1.14 Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic schools;
- Australian Psychological Society (APS) Code of Ethics (October 1997 - revised October 2003);
- APS paper entitled 'Standards for the Delivery of School Psychological Services' (September 2016).

The term 'Counsellor' refers to any member of staff employed in a formal counselling capacity at the school as well as probationary Psychologists completing their Masters or Doctoral placement at the school.

Nazareth College employs a full-time Psychologist.

## **2. Aims**

Our Counselling Policy aims to:

- Facilitate educational and personal success for students;
- Assist students in developing skills to learn effectively and to maintain positive attitudes and behaviours;
- Provide assistance to students experiencing difficulties that are outside the pastoral role and/or professional expertise of the student's subject teachers and Head of House.

## **3. Strategies**

Nazareth College will:

- Require the Counsellor to practise according to the Code of Professional Conduct of the Australian Psychological Society (APS);
- Define confidentiality to mean 'the privacy of information obtained in a relationship of trust between a Counsellor and a client';
- Allow students to approach the counselling service to discuss issues of concern with the expectation of confidentiality;



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- Require that the conditions of confidentiality are explained to students during their first counselling appointment;
- Require the Counsellor to maintain effective communication with relevant parties, within the boundaries of the guidelines pertaining to confidentiality;
- Encourage parental involvement where appropriate;
- Recommend that the student attends an outside agency (general health / mental health) if the student requires support beyond the means of the Nazareth College Counselling Service;
- Discuss referrals, where appropriate, with parent/s or guardian/s and the student prior to the referral being made;
- Require the Policy to be implemented according to the Counselling Policy protocols, which may vary from time to time (APPENDIX 1 P4.5a: Counselling at Nazareth College - Policy Protocols).