

APPENDIX 6 MODEL POLICIES

ST. GERARD COLLEGE, MODEL POLICY ON SCHOOL COUNSELLING SERVICES

Rationale:

St. Gerard College is a Catholic school which operates in a Catholic environment and is committed to each student's intellectual, spiritual, emotional, physical and social development. The College will provide access to school based counselling services for students.

Purpose:

- 1.0 To support parents in caring for their children.
- 2.0 To promote student personal health, spiritual well being and responsibility in the context of Catholic moral teaching.
- 3.0 To assist students to understand and take responsibility for their mental and physical health, emotional development and general well being.
- 4.0 To provide students with professional counselling services that are easily accessed.
- 5.0 To support the delivery of the general school curriculum consistent with the Special Character and policies of the College.

Guidelines:

- 1.0 The College reserves the right to ensure that any on-site counsellor offers services that are consistent with the Special Character of the College and Catholic moral teaching. The Board of Trustees must approve the selection and appointment of any counsellor.
- 2.0 The College will respect the right of parents/caregivers to exclude their children from counselling services.
- 3.0 Student confidentiality will be respected in accord with the Privacy Act and the Health and Disability Services Consumers' Code of Rights.
- 4.0 Counsellors will abide by the ethical policies which operate at St. Gerard College, which in turn will reflect Catholic moral teaching.
- 5.0 Recognising the role of parents/caregivers, counsellors will seek and encourage the involvement of parents/caregivers and the family General Practitioner where appropriate, in the services they provide, except where privacy and/or safety requirements prevent it.
- 6.0 Counselling and information will be provided in accordance with Catholic moral teaching. In cases where students are assessed to be at risk,

information will be provided to them to ensure their safety. This may include information about other agencies which are known to respect the beliefs of Catholic clients referred to them.

- 7.0 In matters of sexuality, as referred to in Point Six of this document, counselling and information will be provided in accordance with Catholic moral teaching. Accordingly, the provision of, organisation of, or referral for termination of pregnancy, and the provision of contraceptives will not be offered by the College's counsellor.
- 8.0 School Counselling services will be financed by the St. Gerard College Board of Trustees.
- 9.0 The Board, through the Principal, will monitor the provision of counselling services, by way of an annual report, to ensure that they are meeting their stated aims and objectives and the requirements of this policy.

Procedures:

- 1.0 The Principal, staff members and counsellors will cooperate to advance the well-being of all students.
- 2.0 The College will provide a suitable and appropriate space for the counsellor to operate from.
- 3.0 The College Guidance Counsellor and the Principal, will work closely together, acknowledging the Principal's CEO role in the managing of the school. In schools where there is a chaplain, close collaboration will occur between the counsellor, the chaplain and the principal.
- 4.0 The counsellor's employment contract will state that the employee operates within the general parameters of the School Charter or Plan, along with the policies of the school.

NZCEO
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