



## Stella Maris Primary School

### Student Welfare Policy

#### Rationale

The goals of our policy towards student welfare and discipline are:

To create a school environment which demonstrates a commitment to the following values:

- Co-operation
- Self-Discipline
- Shared Responsibility
- Mutual Respect
- Social Equality

To support students to appreciate individual differences and develop an understanding and appreciation of different cultures and lifestyles existing in the community and the wider Australian society.

To provide opportunities for students to take action towards making our school, community and world a better place.

To provide an environment that promotes self-acceptance, confidence and a sense of responsibility for self.

To provide a school environment in which all students are able to participate and feel safe, welcomed and valued for their contribution and effort.

#### Principles

We believe our goals are best achieved through the establishment of a school climate that promotes the development of 5Rs in students:

1. **RESPECT** - Believing that all people have equal worth and equal claim to being treated with dignity and kindness.  
Our students are encouraged to have consideration for the feelings of others. They are expected to treat others fairly and to expect respect in return. We believe that students become respectful when treated with respect.
2. **RESPONSIBILITY** - Accepting one's actions, accountability, not blaming others, becoming reliable and trustworthy and seeing themselves as a primary cause of their own decisions and actions. Our students are encouraged to develop self-control and self-dependability. They are encouraged to contribute to the wellbeing of the school, to be helpful and to participate willingly in the life of the school. We believe that students become responsible when given responsibility.
3. **RESPONSIVENESS** - Having concern and caring for others and co-operating with them, evoking a strong sensitivity to the feelings of self and others as well as an empathetic awareness of family, school, community, nation and world. Our students are encouraged to be friendly, co-operative, loving and affirming. We believe that students become responsive when treated fairly with love and respect.
4. **RESOURCEFULNESS** - Making use of one's talents and skills, fostering the ability to devise innovative ways of meeting new situations, seeing these as a positive challenge and using internal resources as well as the assistance of others to solve problems. Our students are encouraged to take care of themselves, to develop independence and self-reliance, to develop their relationships across a broad range of people and to meet the challenges which confront them with confidence. We believe that students become resourceful when permitted to solve life's challenges.

5. **RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS** – Implementing restorative opportunities to help heal broken relationships through sharing what has happened, who has been affected, thinking that led to the actions, making things better and learning from the experience.

### **Implementation**

In stating the above principles, we recognise the importance of the development of a healthy and confident self-image, a sense of belonging and the fostering of authentic self-discipline.

At Stella Maris School we believe that inappropriate behaviour is behaviour that violates self, others or the environment. It should not be confused with a lack of skill or behaviour that students are not aware of as inappropriate.

### **Strategies for inappropriate behaviour involve:**

Following the consequences for breaking school rules such as time away from the group, behavior sheets and meetings with parents.

Positive reward based systems such as star charts.

Opportunities to learn and grow through regular meetings with families to encourage a culture of shared responsibilities and partnerships.

### **Conclusion**

Stella Maris is a school that recognizes the innate goodness of every individual. Through the application of this Student Welfare Policy, we aim to support our students in becoming responsible, resourceful, respectful and responsive human beings.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our discipline policy, anti-bullying policy and Individual Needs Policy.



This policy was ratified in September 2008  
This policy will be reviewed in each Review Year  
This policy was last reviewed in February 2016