

The Riverina Anglican College	Policy No. 8	
Safe and Supportive Environment Student Welfare to comply with 2012 RANGS Manual 3.6.2	Effective: November 2009 Revised November 2012	Page 1 of 3

Safe environment

A safe environment for students is one where the risk of harm is minimised and students feel secure. Harm relates not only to dangers in the built environment, involving such matters as architecture and construction, lighting, space, facilities and safety plans, but also refers to violence, physical threats, verbal abuse, threatening gestures, sexual harassment and racial vilification.

Supportive environment

A supportive environment fosters the social, academic, spiritual, physical and emotional development of students. A supportive environment can be described as one in which:

- students are treated with respect and fairness by teachers, other staff and other students
- members of the school community feel valued
- effective teaching and learning takes place
- positive support and encouragement are provided by members of staff and students
- non-discriminatory language and behavioural practices are defined, modelled and reinforced by members of the school community
- consultation takes place on matters relating to students' education and welfare.

Duty of care

In Australia, a person owes a duty of care to others to not cause injury as a result of their negligent act or omission.

A school has a duty to ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent harm to students. This is a positive duty - that is, it requires that positive steps be taken.

This does not mean that the school is under an obligation to ensure that its students never suffer injury, but that the school must take reasonable steps to prevent students from being harmed.

Student welfare

Student welfare encompasses the mental, physical, spiritual and emotional wellbeing of the student. Provisions for student attendance are integral to providing for student welfare.

Student welfare policies and programs are essential for developing a sense of self-worth and fostering personal development.

Student welfare includes:

- programs that the school provides to meet the personal, social, spiritual and learning needs of the students

- effective discipline
- monitoring student attendance and strategies for improving unsatisfactory attendance
- early intervention programs for students at risk
- student, family and community support networks
- opportunities that the school provides for students to
 - enjoy success and recognition
 - make a useful contribution to the life of the school
 - derive enjoyment from their learning

Evidence of compliance

The Riverina Anglican College has in place and implements policies and procedures in relation to:

1. Security, with specific reference to
 - students, see Policy 7 Safe and Supportive Environment - Child Protection, See Policy 10 Attendance Policy
 - buildings and facilities. See Policy 29 Work Health and Safety Policy, Policy 5 Premises and Buildings and Policy 6 Facilities Policy
 - evacuation and lockdown procedures. See Policy 29 Work Health and Safety Policy
2. Supervision, with specific reference to protocols and guidelines, including risk management, for students undertaking on-site and off-site activities
 - Excursions, see Staff Handbook
 - Playground duty, see Work Health and Safety Policy & Staff Handbook
3. Codes of conduct for members of the school community with specific reference to:
 - Rights and responsibilities of students and staff within the school community, see Policy 2 Staff- Expected and Prohibited Standards of Behaviour, see Policy 9- Safe and Supportive Environment- Discipline
 - Behaviour management, see Policy 9- Safe and Supportive Environment- Discipline
 - Role of Student Leadership in the school and the monitoring of this system, see Policy 28 Student Leadership Policy
 - Management and reporting of serious incidents and emergencies, see Policy 17 Critical Incident Management Policy, Policy 14 Accident and Illness Policy and Policy 29 Work Health and Safety Policy
4. Complaints and grievances with specific reference to:
 - Processes for raising and responding to matters of concern identified by students and/or parents.
See Policy 2 Staff Policy Section D -Complaints made by Parents or outside Personnel concerning Staff Performance
5. Pastoral care with specific reference to:
 - Personnel responsible for pastoral care including access to the Chaplain and School Counsellor.

See Policy 2 Staff - Senior Staff Responsibilities Section

See Policy 9- Safe and Supportive Environment- Discipline

- student attendance, with specific reference to processes for monitoring attendance and strategies to improve unsatisfactory attendance
- Identification of and provision of support for students with special needs.
See Policy 21 Enrolment Policy
See Policy 19 Education of Students with Special Needs Policy
- Health and the distribution and monitoring of medication. See Policy 14 Accident and Illness Policy
- Response to serious incidents and emergencies, see Policy 17 Critical Incident Management Policy, Policy 14 Accident and Illness Policy, Policy 29 Work Health and Safety Policy
- Homework. See Policy 4 Curriculum Policy

6. Communication with specific reference to:

- Formal and informal mechanisms available between stakeholders interested in students' education and well-being. See Policy 9- Safe and Supportive Environment- Discipline, and refer to TRAC website.

Where students are approved to study with an outside tutor or are undertaking courses/subjects with an external provider, The Riverina Anglican College has in place and implements policies and procedures that are appropriate to ensure the safety and welfare of such students and to promote their personal and social development. Refer to Policy 3 External Educational Providers