



SENIOR SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy

Pastoral Care at MGGS embraces the principles and values of our Anglican Tradition. Respect for the rights of all members of the community, celebration of diversity and an emphasis on the responsibilities of all individuals to be active citizens are central to our approach to student wellbeing. A particular focus of the Pastoral Care program is building and sustaining relationships that nurture the individual and challenges them to fulfill their potential in the academic, social and personal domains.

Pastoral care permeates all facets of school life, empowering our young women to have the confidence to articulate their beliefs in both words and actions as well as developing the capacity to critically reflect upon their personal and inter-personal development. In our worship and curricular programs students consider contemporary issues for young people, develop an understanding and appreciation of healthy relationships and develop skills and sensitivity to the diverse needs of people in the local, wider and global community.

Effective Pastoral Care is essential to the well-being and development of each young woman. At MGGS each staff member plays a significant role in the School's pastoral care program.

Cultural exchange

We live in a global community, we seek opportunities to explore the cultures of other parts of the world. This can occur through student exchange, and the celebration of the diverse cultures of our community. We have an established connection with school communities in Papua New Guinea, Japan and China. We organize annual trips to Italy and France to enhance the language development of our LOTE students in Year 10, 11 and 12. Also, on occasion we plan trips to other significant parts of the world to extend and enhance our curriculum.

Special Events

Students are invited to participate in a number of special events throughout their time in the senior school. These formal occasions are held with staff and/or parents to celebrate commitment to House, Rowing, Snowsports and Sport in general. The Year 11 and the Year 12 formals are significant events in the yearly calendar.

Student leadership

Through formal and informal student leadership opportunities and programs a culture of responsibility, collaboration and inter-personal communication and intra-personal reflection is fostered. From the commencement of a student's education at MGGS she is offered opportunities to experience and explore the many and varied facets of leading and leadership.

Our student leaders work closely with, and for the school community. They support and promote a community of practice that continually seeks opportunities to learn about the diversity of ways individuals and groups can and do create change, inspire action and represent ideas and opinions.

The structure and organization of formal student leadership is based around the Student Executive Council, the Peer Support Committee and the Community of Students Internationale.

Student Executive Council (SEC)

A Student Leader at MGGS represents herself and the whole School by:

1. role modeling the values and behaviours valued by our School
2. active commitment to the Spirit and Culture of the School
3. being able and confident in public speaking and leading meetings in a formal manner
4. being fully informed about, and dedicated to her role. She will be proactive in participating in, supporting and initiating anything that builds up the profile in her specific area of leadership
5. visibly supporting her colleague leaders in their roles
6. being a responsible student House Tutor group

The Student Executive Council is responsible for assisting with and developing projects that involve the whole School, the House system, and the Music, Drama and Sporting programs. Their role includes representing the student body on formal occasions. The SEC provides a forum for students to voice their opinions on all matters concerning their education. It is the vehicle by which concerns can be communicated to and from the student body. It is also the means by which the School Management Team can communicate with the students, and initiate projects and activities both for the School and the wider community.

The Student Executive Council consists of:

1. School Captain
2. School Vice Captain
3. House Captains (5)
4. House Vice Captains (5)
5. Music Captain
6. Music Vice Captain
7. Drama Captain
8. Drama Vice Captain
9. Sport Captain
10. Sport Vice Captain
11. Year 12 Councillors (2)
12. Year 11 Councillors (6)
13. Principal
14. Deputy Principal
15. Head of Senior School
16. Head of Middle School
17. Staff Representatives (2)

The SEC:

1. provide a means of expression of student opinion, enabling students to raise issues concerning their involvement in the life of the School;
2. provide the wider School community with the opportunity to consult a representative body of students;
3. encourage greater understanding and communication between students, staff, administration;
4. develop leadership and organisational skills by holding positions of leadership thus providing an outlet to direct their gifts towards the service of others; and
5. raise money for the purpose of funding approved student activities within the SEC, for the promotion of social justice or environmental issues, or for donation to charitable bodies.

The Peer Support Committee actively assists with the transition of new students into the School, and provides support and encouragement to the Middle School students. Peer Support leaders are formally trained in counselling and mediation skills.

The Student Peer Support team consists of Peer Support Leaders from Year 10.

The Community of Students Internationale (CSI)

1. Objectives

The objectives of the CSI are:

- To provide a support for International and English for Second Language (ESL) students
- To encourage International and ESL students to become active members of the MGGS community
- To promote cultural awareness and diversity within the MGGS community

2. Membership

The CSI shall consist of:

- The International Student Coordinator
- The CSI Captain and CSI Vice Captain
- International students and ESL students
- Other interested students
- Interested staff members

3. Office Bearers

The CSI Office Bearers are:

- The International Student Coordinator
- The CSI Captain
- The CSI Vice Captain