FUNDRAISING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE POLICY

APPROVAL OF FUNDRAISING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE POLICY

Principal
College Board Chair
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VISION STATEMENT

We nurture in our endeavours God's gifts of holy friendship, a passion for learning and celebration of personal excellence.

OUR MISSION

St Francis de Sales College is a learning community that works together to build an environment in which faith is nurtured in a Catholic Christian tradition. It does this by recognising individuals' skills and talents while appreciating and accepting their uniqueness.

The College is committed to promoting community and personal fulfilment through life enhancing relationships.

St Francis de Sales, as patron, symbolised the high hopes that are held for every St Francis de Sales student so that, inspired and guided by his example, each child may:

- promote a culture of life through courage in responding to the challenges that life brings
- foster the engagement of faith and reason
- develop a love of learning and independent thinking
- value and respect individuals, irrespective of position, wealth, racial origin or religious beliefs
- become a socially responsible contributor in the community and to society
- acquire virtue and wisdom and respond generously to others throughout life.

GUIDELINES

Principles

This policy is based on a number of principles that underpin the student educational program. In particular it is a practical expression of the following statements:

- concern for others and social justice are mechanisms for discovering personal meaning in life and a means of liberating and empowering individuals to take charge of their own lives and contribute to the society in which they live
- our heart values encourage the development of the individual by fostering a sense of their own worth, the values and dignity of human life and of responsibility for and service to others
- holy friendship facilitates an integration of faith, life and culture
- fundraising at St Francis de Sales College shall operate in harmony with the school’s vision and mission statement.

Definitions

1. Fundraising activities

   For the purpose of this policy, “fundraising activities” shall refer to school-based fundraising and Catholic School Community Council fundraising, in accordance with definitions below.

2. School-based fundraising

   For the purpose of this policy, “school-based fundraising” refers to all fundraising activities initiated and conducted by school staff or sanctioned student groups, under the approval and supervision of the Religious Education Coordinator (REC).
3. Catholic School Community Fundraising

For the purpose of this policy, “Catholic School Community fundraising” refers to all fundraising activities initiated and conducted by Catholic School under the auspices of the Catholic Church, under the approval and supervision of the Principal.

4. Charity or Charitable Agency

For the purpose of this policy a “charity” or “charitable agency” is any organisation or institution engaged in non-profit assistance to the poor, distressed, or persons in need, or such institutions established for the care of such individuals or groups.

RATIONALE

St Francis de Sales College will give priority to fundraising and other charitable works to the effective support of Catholic mission, justice and welfare agencies.

St Francis de Sales College will highlight a focus charity each term of a calendar year of which all fundraised money in that period will support.

Firstly, St Francis de Sales College should give support, every year, to:

Catholic Mission, known internationally as the Pontifical Mission Societies, is the official mission aid agency of the Church. Information on projects supported by the generosity of Catholics in parishes and schools, and on various teaching programs and resources can be found on their website: www.catholicmission.org.au

Caritas Australia is the Catholic agency for aid and development. It promotes sustainable development, responds to emergencies and urges Australians to take actions against structures that perpetuate poverty. Project Compassion is its Lenten appeal. In the event of a natural disaster, Caritas will also launch an appeal to provide life-saving supplies. www.caritas.org.au

St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that works to combat social injustice and to assist people in need, particularly the homeless and those in extreme poverty. Schools are able to establish their own St Vincent de Paul Conference or Mini-Vinnies program. Their major appeals each year are held in winter and at Christmas to provide resources and support to those most in need. www.vinnies.org.au

Secondly, having given priority to Catholic Mission, Caritas Australia and St Vincent de Paul, St Francis de Sales College endeavour to support advocacy, charitable works and social justice actions of Catholic communities with whom they share bonds of Communion such as:

- the local parish – especially in regard to its need of stewardship
- Diocesan agencies and appeals, particularly the Charitable Works Fund
- agencies, programs and initiatives established or sponsored by Religious Orders, especially those with whom they are associated by virtue of being founded and staffed by the local congregation
- Catholic parishes, schools, aboriginal ministries and dioceses in other parts of Australia, and overseas (e.g. East Timor).
GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR ADVOCACY, FUNDRAISING AND SOCIAL ACTION

Catholic schools are increasingly confronted with competing demands from charities and agencies working within and especially beyond the Church. The following principles should guide decision making in regard to St Francis de Sales College’s involvement in advocacy, fundraising or other types of social action.

Catholic agencies are committed to these principles, according to their particular mission within the overall mission of the Church to the poor, suffering and marginalised.

St Francis de Sales College will not support a group if it is discerned that it does not comply with these principles.

1. **Catholic teaching.** *Is the philosophy of the organisation or cause in accord with the Gospel of Jesus and the teachings of the Catholic Church?*
   Some organisations may support ethical positions that contradict the thinking of the Catholic Church or which do not receive endorsement from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

2. **Transparency.** *Is information about the organisation or cause freely available and clear about its mission, purpose and intentions?*
   A responsible steward will know how donations or advocacy are specifically being used and what programs are being supported, and whether the program or processes are ethically sound.

3. **Sustainability.** *Does the organisation or cause intend to build sustainability within the communities where they are working?*
   One-off charitable donations are appropriate in certain circumstances, however it may be more effective to support programs that will be ongoing long after the initial funding has ceased.

4. **Accountability.** *Are the accounts and annual reports of the organisation or cause freely available and responsibly administered?*
   Catholic agencies have a tradition of ensuring very low running costs while some organisations have unreasonably high administration costs which means that less support will reach people most in need.

5. **Altruism.** *Does the organisation or cause inspire a genuine spirit of generosity?*
   Donors need to be encouraged to give without expecting personal reward, even to the point of discomfort or sacrifice. Undue emphasis should not be placed on giving prizes or a commission, as the goal of charity and solidarity is not personal gain.

6. **Empowerment.** *Does the organisation or cause promote community projects that empower local people in decision making and implementation?*
   Caution should be taken over projects that may place individuals at odds with their community, or which adopt a patronising attitude that does not respect self-determination.

7. **Other means of support.** *Does the organisation or cause receive widespread community or government support that gives them a financial advantage over lesser known bodies?*
   Most Catholic agencies primarily depend upon the generous support of the Catholic community.

8. **Holistic.** *Does the organisation or cause simply fundraise or does it also promote education and the formation of people?*
   A holistic approach to service and education for social change can make a greater difference than simply giving a donation. The greater goal should always be to create sustainable change.
9. Religious freedom. *Does the organisation or cause use development and aid projects as a means to converting recipients into a particular faith tradition?* Conversion must always be freely sought and not connected to material gain. The provision of charity and welfare conditional upon faith conversion breaches human dignity.

FUNDRAISING APPLICATION PROCESS

Members of the St Francis de Sales College community, including students, staff or parents, are required to complete a Fundraising Application Form (Appendix A) which will be reviewed by the Religion Education Coordinator and/or Deputy Principal before approval is given or denied based on the rationale and guidelines in this policy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Guiding principles for advocacy, fundraising and social action were provided by the Diocese of Broken Bay.

MONITOR AND REVIEW

This document will be reviewed within three years of the date of issue. Changes in legislation or Catholic Church Policy may necessitate earlier review and subsequent amendment or re-issue.
APENDIX A: FUNDRAISING APPLICATION FORM

Name: _______________________________ Date of application: ________________

Please outline the nature of the activity:
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

Proposed date of activity and timeframe:
________________________________________________________________________________

Approximate anticipated profit:
________________________________________________________________________________

Is the activity an (please circle one):
- Pastoral Group
- Individual
- House
- Other (please explain):
________________________________________________________________________________

Is the activity likely to be (please circle one):
- Regular
- One-off

Please specify the charity/organisation to which the funds will be distributed:
________________________________________________________________________________

Is there an ongoing commitment to this charity/organisation? Yes/No

Other information:
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED

Tear off slip:---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Name: _______________________________

Approved activity: ____________________________________________________________

Signed Religious Education Coordinator: ________________________________

Signed Deputy Principal: ________________________________

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