



## TRAUMA POLICY

### RATIONALE

The College has a responsibility to respond promptly and appropriately in the event of a crisis situation occurring within the College community.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is:

- to reduce the chances of traumatic incidents occurring in the College by increasing awareness of at risk behaviour signals exhibited by members of the College community; and
- to establish a Trauma Response Plan to manage any traumatic incident that may occur within the College community.

### DEFINITION

A traumatic incident covers any situation where (a) member(s) of the school community experience(s) an unusually strong emotional reaction that has the potential to interfere with ability to function either at the time that the situation arises or later. Such events may be described as a tragedy, trauma, emergency, or crisis.

### GUIDELINES

1. All members of the College community have the responsibility to report to the Principal and/or Director of Boarding any concerns they may have in relating to other members of the College community who display at risk behaviours or emotional stress.
2. A Trauma Response Plan will be established and made known to all members of the College community.
3. In the event of a traumatic incident occurring, the Principal will convene a meeting of appropriate staff to action the response plan. Such appropriate staff may include the Director of Boarding, the Chaplain, the Guidance Counsellor, the Deputy Principals, Trust Board Department Heads.
4. An appropriate response may include:
  - a. Informing the College community of the situation;
  - b. Inviting appropriate outside agencies / support people to assist; and
  - c. Identifying other at risk people and providing extra support for them.
5. The Chairperson of the Trust Board will be advised of the incident as soon as it is practicable and consulted regarding the most appropriate response.
6. Any response to the media will follow the Public Statement Policy.
7. A full report on the incident and the response shall be made to the Trust Board.

This policy was adopted by the Wesley College Trust Board on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021

This policy will be reviewed on or before the: 30 April 2023

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Chairperson