



Support of Charities Policy

College Mission

Cabra Dominican College is a Catholic School in the Dominican tradition. It strives to provide an environment that nurtures and develops young people's unique gifts liberating them in the search for truth, and empowering them to create a better world. Cabra Dominican College is committed to providing an environment in which all students feel welcomed, safe and valued.

Context

Cabra recognises that our community is called to respond to injustices and to those in need in our local, national and global community, and to participate in the Church's mission "to bring Good News to the Poor" (Luke 4:18). Cabra has a long tradition of living out this Gospel message through social justice activism. Students are encouraged to develop the values of empathy, compassion, solidarity and respect for human dignity. Seeking to address injustice and to support the charitable organisations which directly address poverty and injustice are at the heart of our Christian response.

Policy Statement

This policy aims to ensure that the Cabra Dominican College community continues to support those most in need and develops clear guidelines for fundraising activities held at or by the College.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, parents/caregivers and is supported by staff working within or for Cabra Dominican College. It does not cover the following:

- curriculum-based activities for an approved specific purpose;
- funds raised through a 'mini-business' in Work, Business and Innovation related learning areas.

Principles

The following principles are used to discern what charitable organisations our community should support and how to best focus fundraising efforts:

1. As our core task is education, our discernment and decision-making processes about which charitable initiatives to support should be seen as an opportunity for educational practice. Where possible awareness-raising should be the primary focus and fundraising secondary.
2. Any organisation we support should contribute to a more just world as articulated in the Gospel and Catholic Social Justice teaching and be accountable in terms of where its funds are directed.
3. Fundraising is counter-productive if it causes financial strain on families in our community – priorities therefore need to be set for practical and ethical reasons.
4. Priorities for fundraising activity should be those Catholic agencies which are reliant on wider Catholic community support, or those which relate to and extend our school's charism, spirituality and context – such as those promoted by Dominican Congregations.
5. From time to time, the Cabra community may be called to respond to emergency or extraordinary appeals – any response should be based on similar principles to those above.

Our priority for whole school-based fundraising, through casual days and supporting activities are for Catholic charities.

Our Student Leaders play an important role in awareness-raising of social justice issues and the support of charitable agencies. The activities of this group are also guided by the principles outlined in this policy. Individual or small groups of students who wish to be involved in charitable work are encouraged to join this group.

From time to time, the school community may be invited to respond to emergency appeals. Any such responses will be at the discretion of the Principal.

Any members of the community - staff, students or parents/caregivers – who wish to initiate fundraising activities in support of charities other than those nominated as priorities must seek the approval of the Principal. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis, taking into account individual circumstances. Approval may be restricted to a class, house or year level with an educational component.

Responsibilities

Students will:

- be encouraged to be generous in their support of approved fundraising activities, recognising that as Cabra students, they are part of the wider Church community and are challenged to show love and care for others, particular those most in need.

Parents/caregivers will:

- work in partnership with the College;
- support the College ethos and values;
- respond to approved fundraising activities both directly and/or by supporting their child's response.

Staff will:

- support the ethos of our school community by educating students about social justice and encouraging student participation in our response to injustices;
- notify canteen staff if any specific lunchtime catering events are taking place.

Executive Leadership will:

- ensure that clear guidelines are in place so that charitable fundraising is both effective and manageable.

Related Documents and References

- Cabra Dominican College Student Handbook
- Cabra Dominican college Staff Handbook

Policy Title: Support of Charities Policy
Ratified by Executive Leadership: 2018
Policy due for review: 2021