



## Support of Charities Policy

### 1 Context

- 1.1 Cabra Dominican College, as a Catholic community in the Dominican tradition, is called to respond to injustices and to those in need in our local, national and global community, and to participate in building of the Kingdom of God; a kingdom of peace and justice.
- 1.2 Cabra has a long tradition of living out the 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 since “In teaching us charity, the Gospel instructs us in the preferential respect due to the poor and the special situation they have in society.” (St Paul VI, *Octogesima Adveniens* (A Call to Action), 1971, #23).
- 1.3 Pope John XXIII’s words provide further context for the purpose and intention of this Policy:
- Catholic Charities serves those most in need. We are a leader at solving poverty, creating opportunity, and advocating for justice in the community
- The Church has always emphasised that this obligation of helping those who are in misery and want should be felt most strongly by Catholics, in view of the fact that they are members of the Mystical Body of Christ. “In this we have known the charity of God,” says St. John, “because he has laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. He that hath the substance of this world and shall see his brother in need and shall shut up his bowels from him; how doth the charity of God abide in him?” (Pope John XXIII, *Mater et Magistra* (Mother and Teacher), 1961 #159).

### 2 Policy Statement

This policy aims to ensure that the Cabra Dominican College community:

- 2.1 continues to support those most in need;
- 2.2 aligns this support to Catholic Social Teaching and therefore, where possible, Catholic charities; and
- 2.3 develops clear guidelines for fundraising activities held at or by the College.

### 3 Scope

- 3.1 This policy applies to all students, parents/caregivers and staff of Cabra Dominican College.
- 3.2 The Principles set out in Clause 4 below may be dispensed with for:
- (a) curriculum-based activities for an approved specific purpose; and
  - (b) funds raised through a ‘mini-business’ in Work, Business and Innovation related learning areas.

## 4 Principles

- 4.1 The following principles are used to discern what charitable organisations our community should support and how to best focus fundraising efforts:
- (a) Our priority for whole school-based fundraising, through casual days and supporting activities are for Catholic charities.
  - (b) 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.
  - (c) Any organisation Cabra supports should contribute to a more just world, as articulated in the Gospels and Catholic Social Teaching, and be accountable in terms of where its funds are directed.
  - (d) Priorities for fundraising activity should be afforded to those Catholic agencies which are reliant on wider Catholic community support, or those which relate to and extend the Dominican charism, spirituality and context, such as those promoted by Dominican Congregations.
  - (e) Any charitable event is an opportunity to teach students our imperative to work towards the building of the Kingdom of God; a kingdom of peace and justice.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 From time to time, the Cabra community may be called to respond to emergency or extraordinary appeals. Any response:
- (a) will be at the discretion of the Principal; and
  - (b) should be based on similar principles to those set out in Clause 4.1 above.
- 4.4 Cabra's formally appointed 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. Individuals or small groups of students who wish to be involved in charitable work are encouraged to nominate for leadership roles or bring initiatives to this group.
- 4.5 Any members of the community who wish to initiate fundraising activities in support of charities or causes other than those nominated as priorities in Clause 4.1 above, must seek the approval of the Principal. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account individual circumstances and the number of fundraising activities which have already occurred in a given year. Approval may be restricted to a class, house or year level with an educational component.
- 4.6 Any proposed fundraising initiative should be placed in writing and submitted to the Director of Mission and Identity and the Principal for approval. It is the responsibility of the Director of Mission and Identity to ensure that support for charities complies with the principles set out in this Policy.
- 4.7 Staff members coordinating charitable events should advise the canteen staff if their event or fundraiser involves the sale of food.



## 5 Related Documents and References

- [Caritas, Serving Out of Love](#) (explanation of Catholic Social Teaching principles applied to charitable work)

## 6 Revision Record

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