

## SOCIAL JUSTICE POLICY

### Purpose

The following policy aims to ensure that every member of this community is educated in the principles and practice of social justice and is prepared to apply these in all aspects of College life and in engagement with the wider world. Each member of this community is expected to respect and foster the rights of others.

### Scope

This policy applies to all activities undertaken by the Damascus College community

### Definitions

Social justice concerns the relationships between different groups in society. It examines whether all the groups in society receive what is due to them. It recognises the sacredness of life and the dignity of each individual human person by promoting tolerance, freedom, fairness and equality for all people.

### Policy Statement

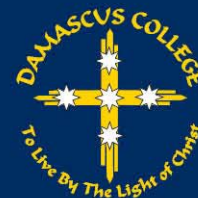
Damascus College will;

- promote the personal, social, economic, cultural and political human rights of every person, especially the most disadvantaged and marginalized;
- provide for the study of the principles and practice of social justice in the formal curriculum;
- ensure a response to injustice at local, national and global levels;
- take the issue of poverty beyond charitable acts and into the questioning and challenging of social values and structures;
- be stewards for the environment and sustainability;
- promote participation and decision-making that is empowering of those involved in and affected by the process; and
- acknowledge that our responsibilities to each other cross racial, cultural, economic and ideological differences

### Consequences

Damascus College will;

- establish programs that provide equitable access to resources;
- promote the rights and responsibilities of all members of the school community;
- actively promote respect for and commitment to the environment;
- ensure that the College community organises special liturgies that focus on social justice issues or themes;
- ensure that opportunities are available to support all students, staff and parents to resolve conflicts and to encourage positive communication;
- establish a social justice group/s which may include staff, students and parents to be involved in raising awareness of and taking action on social justice issues;
- establish and foster links with community groups, including Diocesan and Mercy networks, involved in social justice; and
- provide feedback to members of the College community about decisions that have been made.



### **Responsibilities**

While the Principal has overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy, all members of the College community are expected to support and uphold the Catholic culture of Damascus College.

### **Associated Documents**

Damascus College Vision and Mission Statement.  
Damascus College Religious Education Policy  
Damascus College Enrolment Policy  
Damascus College Environment and Sustainability Policy

### **Bibliography**

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/social-teaching>  
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<http://institute.mercy.org.au/>  
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