



Social Justice Policy

Mission Statement

The Saint Ignatius College Social Justice Committee aims to work in partnership with Catholic and Jesuit groups and associations in an active and advocating manner. We will assist these organisations in a way that respects their dignity and works to restore faith in community and the generosity of others.

As a Committee we will follow the vision of the College, striving to create an education of the entire student of competence, conscience and compassion who dedicate themselves to the service of others.

We will work for the greater glory of God in the Ignatian way.

Vision and Inspiration:

As a Committee we are inspired to work with the greater Jesuit community and work through the Social Justice Teachings of the Catholic Church.

In the name of Jesus, in the spirit of Ignatius companions, for a faith that does justice.

Policy:

As a Committee that strives for the advocacy and awareness of critical justice issues in our local and wider communities, we are called to be the message of Jesus and help those less fortunate.

Our policy for the Social Justice Committee includes:

- Students' involvement: where possible students will have a key role on the organisations and running of a Social Justice event, thus encouraging leadership, organisational and motivational skills.
- Curriculum basis: where possible Social Justice events will be linked to the College curriculum and therefore have a larger impact on student's knowledge and understanding of an issue.
- Jesuit basis: the College curricular and co-curricular programs use examples of works from the Jesuit Missionaries where possible ("Gonzaga Project")
- Catholic Faith based: our committee aims to give preference to Catholic and Jesuit organisations that promote the values of our College
- 7 principles of Catholic Teaching: the basis of the values and beliefs of the Social Justice committee and Catholic Education.
- Justice Awareness: as a committee we are committed to raise awareness and advocate for issues and groups where needed, the committee is not only a charity organisation
- Supporting all people, not just Catholics: while we strive to promote the Catholic organisations, as a committee we will support all people in need, regardless of race, gender or religion.
- Restoring people's dignity: we will give people a 'hand up' not just a 'hand out', our committee aims to restore people's dignity and put people back in charge of their lives.
- Raising awareness: not just raising money for organisations and groups we aim to make people aware of what is happening around them.



Saint Ignatius College Geelong

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Our policy for the Social Justice Committee includes (continues):

- Teaching advocacy and linking with curriculum in school: teaching students to be aware of groups in the wider community who need their assistance, not only their monetary support.
- Gospel Based: Beliefs of the Social Justice Committee are based on the teachings of Jesus as told in Luke 4:18-19.
- Challenge Head, Heart and Hands: challenging what students think, what they believe and what they do.

Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

- The Dignity of the Human Person: every person is made in the image and likeness of God. Respecting and enhancing human dignity
- The Common Good: respecting the rights and responsibilities of people.
- Subsidiary: the right for people in need to participate in decisions that affect their own lives.
- Solidarity: working together as a whole community. Making sure all humans receive what rightly belongs to them.
- Preferential Option for the Poor: take the cause of the poor as your own. Putting oneself alongside those in need.
- Participation: making sure all men and women participate and are in charge of their own lives. Equal rights for all.
- Stewardship for the Environment: caring for the earth's resources in a responsible manner.

Fundraising:

As a committee we aim to move beyond charitable fundraising and be an advocate to those in need.

We will promote support to Catholic and Jesuit Agencies and relate their needs to those of our students.

We aim to create students who can be active citizens of justice and equity.

Groups and Organisations we support:

Our first priority is to support Jesuit organisations and agencies in their work. Next would be the Catholic Church organisations and agencies and then other groups in the community. The three ways we support are: Outreach (charity), Advocacy (awareness raising) and Action (doing something, and action for an issue).