



STUDENT PREGNANCY POLICY

Rationale

Education is a vital key to future success. Pregnant students are actively encouraged to continue their education at our college, and in doing so, will maximise the opportunities for themselves and their child.

Aim

To provide a caring, supportive and flexible learning environment for all students, including expectant mothers.

Implementation

- All students, including young and expectant mothers, have the right to continue their schooling and are welcomed in our college. The expectant mother cannot be discriminated under any manner and must be provided with supportive and flexible opportunities.
- Attendance at our college for pregnant students is allowed up until delivery. However, after the 34th week, a medical certificate is required stating fitness to attend school.
- Our college has the ability to modify the curriculum program as needed and will respond to the student's capacity to maintain the workload and out of class commitments.
- The college is able to provide wellbeing support and connect with support agencies as required.
- The college will be flexible in the delivery of curriculum.
- Ongoing support for the student from the Student Wellbeing Coordinator, the college as a whole, and/or the Distance Education Centre, will be available where learning is interrupted due to pregnancy.
- The college will exercise its capacity to respond to the needs of pregnant students by use of targeted funds, such as those for Managed Individual Pathways (MIPs).
- The student is recommended to return to education no earlier than 6 weeks after the birth, as recommended by a Maternal Health Nurse(s), in order to allow the student to bond with her baby.
- The student is provided with an appropriate and private area to breastfeed if the baby is delivered to the school by an outside support at specific intervals. Any visitors must sign in at the office to be accounted for.
- The student's baby is only to be in an organized and designated area, and is not permitted to be in the learning areas or recreational areas of the college.
- The college, through the Student Wellbeing Coordinator and/or College Support Group, will develop partnerships with a range of regional community agencies and organisations to support young and expectant mothers, so as to maintain their connectedness to education.
- The Office for Youth, Department of Victorian Communities, provides information on initiatives in schools and communities designed to support pregnant and parenting students.

- In Victoria, the stage of post-compulsory education provides a range of options and the flexibility to combine pregnancy and parenting and continuing education. Accredited courses include; VCE (can be studied over three years), VCAL, VET in VCE, part-time apprenticeships and traineeships.

Resources

www.thebridge.org.au

www.csmc.org.au

www.health.vic.gov.au/maternity

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Teenage_pregnancy

www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/Health+%26+Relationships/Sexuality+%26+relationships/Relationships+%26+sexual+health

RATIFIED BY COLLEGE COUNCIL

_____ **Date:** ___/___/___
College Council President

Review Date July 2018