

6 Guiding Principles of Junior Secondary @ NSC

<p>1</p> <p>Distinct Identity</p>	<p>As a group, our Junior Secondary students have peer leaders, year level assemblies, Gold Rewards days and Celebration Assemblies that are specific to them. Students frequently have the opportunity to volunteer and build capacity in the community sphere. Within grade 7 and 8, groups of students are placed in pods (E.g. 2-4 classes with common teachers/learning areas/house groups) to better support a sense of distinct identity and togetherness.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Quality Teaching</p>	<p>All our teaching staff have been upskilled in Junior Secondary teaching and learning, and many of our teachers are Junior Secondary Specialists. The quality teaching of these students is further supported by staff collaboration around student achievement data, moderation of assessment and curriculum, and building knowledge around student needs to better support their learning.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Student Wellbeing</p>	<p>Nambour State College is well-known for our outstanding student wellbeing programs and the support we offer. At a broad level, all year 7 and 8 students participate in a start-of-year orientation program where the focus is building relationships and allowing teachers to gain an understanding of student needs and interests. Core classes are taught for the first week and as students become familiar with their surroundings and each other, electives are introduced. Year 7s continue this support with Skills Development lessons, that improve social skills and resilience, as well as reduce stress around the changes that take place during high school. All Junior Secondary students participate in S.H.A.R.P (Student Health and Resilience Program) run by our senior Health teacher and School Nurse. Students who require further support are given one-on-one or small group wellbeing coaching with their Dean of Students, Behaviour Support Teachers, Head of Positive Schooling, Guidance Officers, Community (Indigenous) Education Counselor, Chaplain or School Nurse. Nambour State College partners with a wide variety of external programs across the region to support students and their families.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Parent and Community Involvement</p>	<p>Our college has an active and flourishing P&C Association that coordinates a number of key events in our school calendar (such as the Colour Run) and generates significant funding for our students and learning environment. Decision making is further supported by our School Council (made up of both parents and staff), and both the P&C and School Council are in regular consultation with college leadership. Parents and community are welcomed to all college events including Celebration Assemblies, Awards Night and Creative Arts nights.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Leadership</p>	<p>Students in year 8 and 9 may apply (in term 4) for leadership roles in the areas of Arts, Culture, Academia, Sporting and the Environment. Our previous year 6 leaders lead students in year 7 for the first six months of the year, before a leadership process is undertaken for the remaining six months. This gives our year 7s a chance to develop a high school identity before being asked to show leadership skills. Our Junior Secondary leaders support the College Captains, regularly assist in their specialist area, and meet twice a term to deliver student feedback to the Junior Secondary Head of Department. This provides our students with a voice across all aspects of college life.</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Local Decision Making</p>	<p>The Junior Secondary approach at our college has changed over the years to best suit the needs of our students and local community. This includes modifying our year 7 approach to geographical “pods” after our enrolment growth, increasing the number of student leaders and working with staff to ensure the Australian Curriculum is delivered with integrity and to a high-standard, whilst also meeting and supporting student needs. Our college leadership team, Junior Secondary teachers and School Council all contribute to our local decision-making and ensure that the Junior Secondary program remains innovative, responsive and sets our students up for success.</p>