Relationships Policy

Introduction
Stella Maris is a faith community made up of students, staff, parents and priests supporting each other in the development of full human, spiritual and academic potential. Given we have chosen to be part of this community, there is a need to articulate a particular way of being together that is based upon belief in God and a Catholic Christian way of life.

Rationale
This policy will provide a Gospel-based framework for all interactions within this community and for the development of all procedures that flow from it.

Principles, Values
Respect We uphold the dignity of each and every person regardless of their position, power or possessions.
Trust We have faith that people will do what they say. We trust that there is some gift or learning in everything life brings.
Justice We stand up for our own rights and the rights of others. We do not judge people or put them in categories. Everyone gets his/her fair share.
Compassion We understand and care when someone is in trouble or makes a mistake. We are kind and forgiving.

Policy Statement
We affirm that all people are made in the image and likeness of God. This behoves us to do what is just, to show constant love and to live in humble fellowship with each other and with God. We aim to be a welcoming, supportive community nurturing and challenging each other to fullness of life in Christ.

Implementation
- A number of school procedures (eg Enrolment and Behaviour Management) will be guided by this policy.
- Policy familiarisation will be included in Enrolment and Induction procedures with parents, staff and students.
- For existing members of this school community, familiarisation with the policy is a priority and will be revisited on an on-going basis.
- This policy applies to all Stella Maris community members regardless of religion or cultural background.
- Behaviour of community members towards one another should increasingly reflect a deepening understanding of the content of this policy.

Implementation date: Term 4, 2008 Review date: Term 4, 2011
Thank you for taking the time to provide the School Board with feedback on the Draft Relationships Policy. Please comment upon the sections as you see fit:

1. The **Introduction** to the policy should provide a brief background to the policy issue:

2. The **Rationale** should provide clearly stated reasons as to why the policy is being produced. It should reflect the school’s Vision and Mission Statements.

3. These **Values** should provide clear reference to the values of the Gospel and should be relevant to the policy being produced.

4. The **Policy Statement** should concisely state *what* is to be done but not *how, when or by whom*. Language used should be clear, simple and non-technical.

5. **Implementation** should be drawn from implied or planned consequences of implementation. This section should include behaviours which could provide means for evaluating the success of implementation.

Name/s: _____________________________________________________