



SOCIAL ACTION AND FUNDRAISING

Related Merici Policies

Healthy Eating/Drinking Policy

Rationale/Purpose

Merici College has a long tradition of active involvement in charity work. The ethos of the College involves a culture of service to others in the local, national and global communities. Social action and fundraising are opportunities for the College community to show concern for injustice and express our faith through action.

The aim of this policy is to clarify the College's role in supporting a number of charities, in order that:

- the burden of fundraising and associated events is equitably maintained and
- to allow for some flexibility so the College community can respond to changing needs and acute events (such as bushfire or flooding crises).

Definitions

A fundraising activity is defined as an organised activity to raise money or goods.

Fundraising by the College for charitable organisations will:

- Raise awareness about the charitable organisation and the nature of its work;
- Have a plan for action with a 'whole' school or a 'House' focus that can involve all students at the College and the wider College community.

Policy

It is Merici College's policy to have a consistent process for the College to consider all fundraising activities. All proposals for fundraising activities must be submitted to the Head of Mission and Community and approved by the College Executive, with the ultimate decision being at the discretion of the Principal.

The College supports charities on a number of levels. The College's main charity is Caritas. Other social awareness raising and fundraising falls into three categories.

Category 1: House Charities

Each House has a historical link with a charity and traditionally they have conducted 'whole' school and House specific events which aim to increase awareness of and raise money for this charity. Although the charity each House supports has a historical significance, these are open to review and change.

Category 2: Individual College Groups, supported by Whole School Activities

Through the various service groups (Social Justice, SRC, Animal Welfare), the College also supports other charities. Support comes in various forms, including:

- Participation in events, such as St Vincent de Paul Can Line & Winter Sleep Out Appeal.
- Fundraising activities to support specific chosen charities such as Sponsor children, Door knocks.

Category 3: Social Action

There are also serious events, charities and organisations that do not need financial or material support. However, the College would like to support these members of our community through the option of:

- Planning and running a liturgy or prayer service or candle light vigil.
- Organising a guest speaker to come during lunch or after school.
- Organising a seminar to teach students about the organisations focus.
- Presenting educational material during House Assemblies for awareness raising.
- Promoting events that are taking place outside the College.

NOTE – Fundraising for individual student projects and representative teams not associated with the College cannot be conducted within the College. This includes chocolate sales, which is not in line with the College's Healthy Eating/Drinking Policy. No fundraising will be allowed for students to attend a school associated tour, unless it is to raise money to give to those in need at the point of destination.

Procedures

House fundraising events should be coordinated between the Houses and with the Head of Mission and Community, to ensure that the events are spread throughout the year.

Adoption of new charities and support of new events must be approved by the College Executive, through a written submission outlining the proposal to the Head of Mission and Community. Proposals can be made by staff members, service groups, the SRC or individual groups of students.

Fundraising Options – Food and Non-Uniform Days

Any fundraising activities which involve food stalls should happen under the condition that the Merici College Canteen is informed prior to the event and the majority of the food for sale is home made.

Healthy options should be given a priority in line with the College's *Healthy Eating/Drinking Policy*.

Approval to hold whole school fundraising events such as non-uniform or free dress (mufti) days must be sought from the College Executive, through the Head of Mission and Community.

Timeline

A year's timeline is preferred, however it is desired that two months' notice be given for fundraising prior to commencement.

Declining of Requests

Merici College is conscious that it cannot say 'Yes' to supporting every activity or fundraiser. Therefore a formal College reply, including our rationale and offering support through promotion (if appropriate) will be considered.

Forms

Nil

References

Nil

Approved by: Merici Executive
Implementation Date: June 2015
Policy last Updated: July 2022
Merici Contact Officer: Head of Mission and Community