



AUSTRALIAN
ISLAMIC COLLEGE

STUDENT COUNSELLING POLICY

Postal Address PO Box 252, Cloverdale, WA 6985
Ph 08 9362 2100 **Email** info@aic.wa.edu.au **Website** www.aic.wa.edu.au

Thornlie College 17 Tonbridge Way, Thornlie, WA 6107 **Ph** 08 9493 2718
Dianella College 81 Cleveland Street, Dianella, WA 6108 **Ph** 08 9375 9770
Kewdale College 139 President Street, Kewdale, WA 6105 **Ph** 08 9362 2100
Forrestdale College 651 Nicholson Road, Forrestdale, WA 6112 **Ph** 08 9493 5819
Henley Brook College 10 Asturian Drive, Henley Brook, WA 6055 **Ph** 08 9375 9892
Adelaide College 22A Cedar Avenue, West Croydon, SA 5008 **Ph** 08 8340 7799

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1. Policy Statement

This policy outlines the provision of counselling services at Australian Islamic College to support the academic, emotional, social, and spiritual wellbeing of all students from Primary to High School. The policy reflects Islamic principles regarding gender interaction and ethical conduct.

2. Scope & Responsibility

This Policy applies to:

- All students from Kindergarten to Year 12
- School counsellors (male and female)
- School leadership, teachers and pastoral care staff
- Parents and guardians

3. Policy & Procedure Details

The school recognises the importance of supporting students holistically – academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. Guided by the values of Islam and the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah, our counselling services aim to:

- Assist students in overcoming challenges that impact their learning and development.
- Provide a safe, respectful and confidential space, rooted in Islamic ethics.
- Nurture emotional intelligence, resilience and strong moral character.

3.1 Counselling Services Offered

- **Individual Counselling:** For personal, academic, behavioural or emotional concerns. High School students will be referred to a counsellor of the same gender wherever possible.
- **Group Counselling:** Addressing shared concerns in gender-segregated groups if requested by the Pastoral Care Team.
- **Primary School Support:** Age-appropriate support with cultural sensitivity.
- **Crisis Intervention:** Immediate support for students in distress.
- **Referrals:** To external professionals where necessary.
- **Wellbeing & Spiritual Programmes:** Sessions on Islamic values, resilience and character development only on the request of Pastoral care.

3.2 Access to Counselling

- Students must initially approach their coordinator or teacher or parent if they would like to access counselling services.
- Girls are required to go to the female coordinator, while boys are required to go to the male coordinator.
- Coordinators will assess the situation and, if necessary, complete a referral form or email detailing the reason for counselling.
- Parental consent is required before proceeding with counselling services for the student.
- Gender-sensitive referrals apply in high school.
- Parental consent is considered, especially for younger students, less than 18 years old.

3.3 Referral Process

- Coordinators must ensure that all referrals are documented and communicated to the counselling department.
- Walk-in sessions are not permitted to maintain structure and organisation. All students must be referred through the proper channels as explained in section 3.2.

3.4 Confidentiality

- The counselling process will uphold strict confidentiality to protect student privacy, except when disclosure is required by law or necessary to protect the student or others from harm.
- Coordinators on leave may share cases with the interim counsellor, but confidentiality must be maintained, with no data shared or discussed unnecessarily.
- Counselling is confidential unless the student or another person is at risk.
- Students are informed of confidentiality limits at the outset.

3.5 Roles & Responsibilities

- Counsellors are responsible for providing a supportive and confidential environment.
- They will collaborate with teachers, coordinators and parents as needed to develop effective support plans for students.
- Counsellors support students in line with Islamic and professional ethics.
- Teachers and Leaders identify and refer students needing support.
- Parents and Guardians collaborate with the school for student wellbeing.

3.6 Parental Involvement

- Parents will be informed and involved in the counselling process as appropriate, ensuring they are partners in supporting their child's wellbeing.

3.7 Islamic Guidelines

- Practices must align with Islamic values on modesty, privacy and gender interaction.
- Counselling spaces must maintain Islamic guidelines.
- Counsellors model Islamic behaviour and reinforce spiritual wellbeing.

3.8 Monitoring and Evaluation

The counselling programme will be regularly evaluated for effectiveness, with feedback sought from students, parents and staff to continually improve services.

- Annual review by the School Leadership Team.
- Feedback used to improve services.
- Data informs whole-school wellbeing strategies.

3.9 Emergency Protocols

In cases of emergency, immediate action will be taken according to established school safety procedures, with the priority being the safety and wellbeing of the student.

3.10 Training & Development

Ongoing professional development will be provided for counsellors to ensure they are equipped with the latest skills and knowledge to support students effectively.

Reviewed date: [April 2025]
Approved by: [Executive Principal]
Next review: [April 2026]

Appendix 1 – Referral Flowchart

Referral Flowchart

