

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define our intentions to involve and empower students in the process of shaping their learning experience in their journey towards becoming autonomous, independent learners. The College is committed to working with all students, either as individuals and/or as groups, to help them develop the skills and confidence to be actively involved in the organisation of their own learning and experience, **regardless of their mode of study, age, disability, gender, race or religion.**

Objective

The policy seeks to provide a framework for effective engagement of students in various aspects of college life for improved learning outcome.

Policy Statement

All students should be actively encouraged and supported to be involved in college activities in order to improve quality processes in a manner and at a level that is appropriate to all.

The College will foster an appropriate range of activities to establish a culture and environment where students, especially females and persons with disability are encouraged to take up opportunities.

Scope of students' engagement

Students shall be engaged in the following aspects of college life:

- **Teaching and learning**
Students shall have access to tutors services through facilitation, tutorial, supervision etc. Library services, computer laboratories and other relevant materials would be provided to enhance teaching and learning.
- **Workshops, seminars and orientations**
The College would from time to time organize workshops, seminars and orientation on assessment and examination procedures and other issues of academic and national interest.
- **Practicum**
The College shall facilitate the Supported Teaching in Schools (STS) for students through the preparation of student teachers, mentors and other stakeholders. The STS committee would design activities for the realization of the benefit of the practicum.
- **Decision making**
Students shall be encouraged to contribute to decision making by involving them in statutory and ad-hoc committees.
- **Religious activities**

Students would be allowed to practise religion of their choice in so far it is within the remit of the law. However, the college is a Catholic institution and as such students are mandated to participate in religious activities of the Catholic Church.

- **Clubs and societies**

Registered groups would be allowed to operate as clubs and societies in the College. Their activities will be supervised by the Students' Affairs Office.

- **Student support and guidance**

To help students adjust and solve their emotional challenges, Academic Counselors, 'safe space' focal persons as well as Guidance and Counseling coordinators would support students through counseling and advice.

1. Implementation

It is the responsibility of all staff and managers involved in the delivery of teaching, learning, assessment and support to St. Joseph College of Education students to foster and promote student engagement opportunities across the College. The Student Affairs and Quality Assurance officers are responsible for ensuring that all students are aware of and able to access student engagement opportunities.

The communication strands include SRC, the Students Handbook and Class Representatives.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The quality assurance office shall review and also develop additional tools to assess the level and quality of students' engagement in the College. Find attached students' engagement tool.

2. Definition of Terms

For clarity the following terms have been clearly defined in context of the document:

Engagement: an arrangement or an appointment intended to establish agreement between groups

Student Engagement is therefore the involvement and empowerment of students in the process of shaping the student learning experience, to inform the College's quality systems with the purpose of improving the student's educational experience for both current and future cohorts.

St. Joseph College of Education defines its commitment to the development of independent learners and student engagement as follows:

- The College will promote the concept of the independent learner, who adopts a shared responsibility for learning and the enhancement of learning to enrich their overall experience.
- We will create a sense of community and a shared commitment to learning, development and responsibility with our students so that they consider themselves co-partners and active participants in their learning.
- We will actively engage students to participate in our quality assurance and enhancement procedures so that their views more fully inform teaching and learning in the College.

Staff: Employees of the College (Academic and Supporting Staff).

Students: Successful applicants who gain admission into the College and are duly matriculated.

TOOLS FOR ASSESSING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Tools for monitoring Student engagement relate to the support given to student teachers by the College and the opportunities for them to contribute to the management and improvement of their educational experience.

It **focuses on:**

1. Advisory and support provision
2. Academic support during their course
3. ‘Student Voice’: opportunities for trainees to contribute to the management and improvement of the College.
4. Skill development
5. Representation at college committee level

The college has policies and procedures in place that aim at encouraging trainees to learn independently and to participate actively in improving the quality of their educational experience	YES		NO	
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Please tick [✓] only one of the following responses in the table as it applies to students’ engagement in the college

key

Poor (1):

Satisfactory (2):

Good (3):

Excellent (4):

Statement	1	2	3	4
1. Mechanisms are in place to ensure that there is effective participation by student trainees in decision making in the College				
2. The College has documented an effective disciplinary procedures for student teachers				
3. The College has an effective Academic Advisory System for student teachers				
4. The College has a Counselling Service available for all student teachers that provides confidential advice				
5. The College has staff with knowledge relating to academic advice and counselling				
6. Student teachers attend an orientation programme designed to familiarise them with the College and its happens at the beginning of their course				
7. The College has a system that encourages student teachers to have regular meetings with their tutors to discuss their progress and any difficulties they may be experiencing				
8. There is a system to ensure that our trainees frequently participate in micro teaching during their course in order to enhance their skills				
9 Students teachers have an elected representative who attends management committee and Council meetings				
10 Student engagement strategy encourages trainees to become involved in the management of their own learning through peer and self-assessment activities				