ST VINCENT’S COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

PREAMBLE
St Vincent’s College is a Mary Aikenhead Ministry in the tradition of the Sisters of Charity. We are called to develop in each member of our community a contemporary understanding and application of the charism of Mary Aikenhead and the spirituality of the Sisters of Charity, and the Mary Aikenhead Ministries’ mission, vision and values of justice, love, compassion and hope.

Mary Aikenhead was committed to service of the poor which continues to be upheld through the education ministry of St Vincent’s College. The philosophy that underpins the education of students at the College is informed at all times by the charism of the Sisters of Charity, the Ignatian tradition and the Mission of Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

RATIONALE
The scholarship policy provides the framework upon which scholarships are offered to students in the College based on academic merit, particular gifts and talents (ie music, drama, sports or languages), student leadership; Women in science; Remote NSW; Indigenous community leadership or other areas as deemed appropriate by the College Board.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Each year the College Board specifies the number of scholarships offered to students and the criteria upon which the Scholarships are to be awarded. The scholarship that are offered annually are outlined on the College website along with the scholarship process.

Some scholarships require the applicants to complete the ACER Combined Scholarship Testing Program or an audition/portfolio process. Testing, auditions and portfolios are held on the last weekend in February in the year prior to enrolment.

All scholarships are offered through the Scholarship and Bursary Committee which, in addition to scholarship-specific criteria, will also consider the following criteria:
- Commitment to the College values of Generosity of Spirit, Hope, Justice, Respect, Service of the Poor
- Participation in co-curricular activities at the College
- Commitment to academic achievement
- Contribution to liturgical, justice and service life of the College community
- Familial support and commitment to the ethos of the College

Awarding of scholarships
Upon the successful awarding of a scholarship, the parents/carers of the child agree to the enrolment conditions of the College. Students who are awarded scholarships for the duration of their schooling are expected to complete their schooling at St Vincent’s College; should a student withdraw prior to the completion of their schooling, the family may be liable for the cost of the full tuition fees.
Scholarship and Bursary Committee

Membership of The Scholarship and Bursary Committee is:
- The College Principal
- A College Board Director
- A Foundation Committee member

The Scholarship and Bursary Committee meets 4 times a year to undertake the following tasks:
- March Review of Bursary applications
- May Awarding scholarships for the next year and Review of Bursary applications
- August Review of Bursary applications
- November Review of scholarships recipients and Review of Bursary applications

REVIEW This policy statement was approved in July 2015 and is to be reviewed in 2018.
TO BE INCLUDED ON COLLEGE WEBSITE

Scholarship Process

The College Board approves annually the awarding of a number of scholarships. The scholarships that are available and their specific criteria are listed annually on the College website. The process of awarding a scholarship is outlined below:

1. Interested students download an application for a scholarship from the College website and complete the application, providing additional documents as stated in each scholarship.
2. Criteria of each scholarship is outlined on the College website and is regularly reviewed by the Scholarship and Bursary Committee.
3. The application form is submitted (electronically or by mail) to the College Registrar who acknowledges receipt of the application and arranges an interview with a member of the College Executive.
4. Some scholarships require the applicant to complete the ACER Combined Scholarship Testing Program or an audition/portfolio process. Testing, auditions and portfolios are held on the last weekend in February in the year prior to enrolment. Information about this process can be obtained by the College Registrar.
5. Each year a Scholarship and Bursary Committee is convened comprising of the College Principal, Board Director and Member of College Foundation. The Scholarship and Bursary Committee holds at least 4 meetings a year:
   a. The first meeting is held in March for review of Bursary applications
   b. After the results of the ACER tests and audition processes, the Committee meets (usually in May) to award scholarships for the next year and review of Bursary applications
   c. In August the Committee meets to approve scholarships that will be awarded in the following year and reviews Bursary applications
   d. The final meeting of the year is in November and allows for the Committee to review scholarships recipients and review of Bursary applications
6. In addition to the specific criteria of the scholarship, The Scholarship and Bursary Committee will consider the following in awarding a scholarship:
   o Commitment to the College values of Generosity of Spirit, Hope, Justice, Respect, Service of the Poor
   o Participation in co-curricular activities at the College
   o Commitment to academic achievement
   o Contribution to liturgical, justice and service life of the College community
   o Familial support and commitment to the ethos of the College
TO BE INCLUDED ON COLLEGE WEBSITE

Academic Scholarships
St Vincent's College makes available entrance scholarships to students entering Year 7 and Year 11. These scholarships cover part remission of tuition fees.
They are awarded on the basis of:
  ● academic merit, as demonstrated in the ACER examination,
  ● an interview conducted by a member of the College Executive
  ● quality of application form

Music Scholarships
Music Scholarships are awarded on the basis of:
  ● an audition and
  ● an interview for enrolment in the College conducted by a member of the College Executive
  ● quality of application form

St Vincent's College offers two Music Scholarships to students of outstanding musical ability.
  ● The Madame Christian Scholarship is awarded to a student of singing.
  ● The Annie McParland Scholarship is awarded to a student of instrumental music.
These scholarships cover music tuition fees and part remission of College tuition fees.

Drama Scholarship
St Vincent's College Ex-Students' Union offers a Drama Scholarship to a student who possesses outstanding dramatic ability. Drama Scholarships is awarded on the basis of:
  ● an audition and
  ● an interview for enrolment in the College conducted by a member of the College Executive
  ● quality of application form

This scholarship covers drama tuition fees at the College and part remission of College tuition fees.

The registration fee for Music and Drama Scholarships is $100.00 per application.
One of these scholarships must be awarded to a student entering Year 7 in the following year.

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1 Mary Ellen Christian studied singing at the Royal Academy of Music London and became a renowned contralto. She migrated to Australia in 1871 and continued her career as a singer but also began teaching. She became a Sister of Charity in 1894 and opened the Garcia School of Music at St Vincent’s College described as “the first national nursery of native talent”. At its peak it had over 150 students undertaking Royal Academy of Music exams.

2 Annie McParland attended St Vincent’s from 1910 to 1912 when she matriculated to Sydney University at the age of 16 to study a Bachelor of Arts. She became a conductor at the Adelaide School of Opera, reputedly the first female to conduct Opera in Australia.
Boarding Scholarship
The College offers Boarding Scholarships to a student entering Year 7 from a rural area to attend St Vincent’s. The Scholarship covers boarding costs from Year 7 to year 12. Candidates must meet the following criteria:

- A high level of academic achievement. This will be the Year 5 report and recommendation of the Principal of the primary school attended.
- If a student is able to attend an ACER centre for the testing, it is desirable that this occurs.
- Achievement in leadership, sport and/or music/performance and/or service.
- Contribution and participation in the home parish.

Each student is to submit evidence of the above criteria plus a statement in support of their application (250 words). Applications are due at the end of Term 1 in the year prior to enrolment.

Indigenous Student Scholarships
St Vincent's College has a strong commitment to the Catholic Secondary Education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. In conjunction with the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF) and St Vincent’s College, boarding scholarships are offered to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students from rural/regional areas each year. This scholarship covers full boarding and tuition fees.

Candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Eligibility for ABSTUDY (Tuition and Boarding)
- Willingness to maintain enrolment as a fulltime student and boarder
- Demonstrated record of academic progress
- Involvement in wider activities
- Ability and willingness to contribute to the life of the College and community

Applications for this annual scholarship are welcome in the year prior to proposed admission. Each student is to submit evidence of the above criteria plus a statement in support of their application (approximately 250 words).

Mother Mary Aikenhead Academic Scholarship
This scholarship is offered through the generosity of the St Vincent’s College Ex-Students’ Union Inc.

Eligibility:
The Mother Mary Aikenhead Academic Scholarship is a means-tested academic scholarship awarded on:

- Academic achievements, to a student whose family requires some financial assistance to attend the College. The Scholarship covers 50% remission of tuition fees for the final two years. (Year 11 and Year 12)
- Applicant is a relative of a financial member of the SVC Ex-Student’s Union at time of application (e.g. daughter, grand-daughter, sister, niece, great niece).
- A student who demonstrates and embodies the values of the College - generosity of spirit, hope, justice, respect and service of the poor and who will make a significant contribution to College life.
- Current SVC students and students from elsewhere, entering Year 11 in 2016 are eligible to apply
- Award made at the Principal’s discretion based on the application and supporting documentation

Application process as outlined on the application form (attached)
Part One: Academic Achievement Details
Please provide copies of the following:
• 2015 most recent report
• 2014 School Reports (Semester 1 and Final Year Report)
• Most recent Naplan results (Year 9)
• 2013-2015 School academic certificates/awards

Part Two: Personal Reflection
Applicant must submit a short personal statement to introduce herself and indicate interest and achievements. As part of this statement outline how they embody the values of the College - generosity of spirit, hope, respect, justice and service of the poor and how they would make a significant contribution to College life.

Part Three: Other Achievement Details
This section demonstrates applicant’s enthusiasm for leadership opportunities, community involvement and or academic/ sporting or cultural pursuits. Please provide a summary of recent contributions and achievements in two or more relevant areas as listed below: social justice/community service; leadership; performing and creative arts; debating and public speaking; sport.

Dorothy Craig Scholarship
The Dorothy Craig Scholarship, offered in memory of an ex-student, who attended St Vincent’s College as a boarder in the early 1910's, before enrolling in Arts at Sydney University. The Dorothy Craig Scholarship is a means-tested academic scholarship, open to a Year 10 student who is currently not enrolled at St Vincent’s College and who will enter Year 11 in 2016.

Eligibility:
The Dorothy Craig Scholarship is a means-tested academic scholarship awarded based on:
• Academic achievements, to a student whose family requires financial assistance without which, the applicant would not be able to attend St Vincent’s College.
• A student who has a strong interest and love of English.
• A student who embodies the values of the College - generosity of spirit, hope, respect, justice and service of the poor and who will make a significant contribution to College life.
• Award made at the Principal’s discretion based on the application and supporting documentation.
• This Scholarship covers full remission of tuition fees for the final two years of schooling

Application process as outlined on the application form (attached)
Applicant must submit a short personal statement to introduce herself and indicate interest and achievements particularly in the area of English. As part of this statement outline how they would make a significant contribution to College life.

**Part Three: Other Achievement Details**

This section demonstrates applicant’s enthusiasm for leadership opportunities, community involvement and or academic/ sporting or cultural pursuits. Please provide a summary of recent contributions and achievements in two or more relevant areas as listed below: social justice/community service; leadership; performing and creative arts; debating and public speaking; sport.