



Mercy Service Learning (MSL) Program

In keeping with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and the charism of the Sisters of Mercy, all students at Mercedes College are required to participate in the College Service-Learning Program. Service-Learning is a flexible, student centred program that provides students with an opportunity to develop the Mercy values of service, justice, compassion, integrity and excellence through meaningful and active citizenship.

In a Christian context Service-Learning provides the opportunity to put faith into action in the local and global community. This program invites students to explore the servant ministry of Jesus and to respond to others with the same love and care. It is anticipated that students will benefit from the experience by carefully reflecting on their service and gaining a better understanding of themselves, the people they serve and the issues they will confront.

Students are expected to demonstrate satisfactory achievement in the following outcomes:

Develop an understanding and appreciation of the mission of the Sisters of Mercy

Link faith and Mercy values to their personal response to these needs.

Demonstrate an understanding of the plight of the poor and marginalised.

Recognise that civic participation is a responsibility of all members of the community.

Identify ways in which involvement can lead to personal growth.

Complete the relevant service time or activities appropriate to their year group.

Mercy Service Learning is coordinated by three staff members each working with a Learning Community at the College. Students in year groups participate in the following programs:

Year 7 - Lenten program

Year 8 - Family and Friends based program.

Year 9 - Environmental Stewardship program.

Year 10 - A Curriculum Council Endorsed Unit in Mercy Service-Learning. The focus is Mercy Values.

Year 11 - A Curriculum Council Endorsed Unit in Mercy Service-Learning. The focus is Catholic Social Teaching

Year 12 - Students are encouraged to continue service in the Mercy tradition through various groups like the Young Mercies and Prefect leadership roles. Optional Curriculum Council Endorsed Units are also available. The focus of these units include; Millennium Development Goals, Human Rights: Women and Children, Hospitality: A Welcoming Cup of Tea

The total number of service hours accumulated between Year 10 and 12 will be recorded separately on the Curriculum Council Statement of Results as Community Service Hours. Students are encouraged to go beyond the minimum requirement of 15 hours in the Year 10 and 11 Mercy Service-Learning units.