

1.03A

MERCY EDUCATION POLICY 1.03A ASSOCIATED ENTITIES

Rationale:

Mercy Education seeks to exercise its governance role with respect to its member schools with *Compassion, Justice, Respect, Hospitality, Service and Courage*.

Definition:

Associated Entity refers to any organisation or group of individuals, regardless of their incorporated status or lack thereof, that considers itself, or is considered by Mercy Education, or might be reasonably considered by members of the public, to be associated with Mercy Education or one of its Colleges.

Policy Statement:

- A01 Each Mercy Education school interacts with a number of associated entities. Given the complex framework of child protection, fiscal accountability and legal liability in which Mercy Education operates, it is vital that the legal nature of these entities and their relationship with Mercy Education is clearly documented and understood.
- A02 Some associated entities, whose membership is inherently tied to their relationship with Mercy Education schools, are considered to be, and accepted by the Board, as part of Mercy Education. These entities include:
- Associations of Alumni / Alumnae
 - Associations of Staff Members
 - Associations of Parents and Friends
- Applications by such entities for separate incorporation will not be accepted or supported by Mercy Education.
- A03 Associated entities that are accepted as part of Mercy Education gain the legal benefits of belonging to Mercy Education, including, but not limited to:
- Coverage by Mercy Education insurance policies
 - Inclusion in Mercy Education's charitable status
- A04 Associated entities that are accepted as part of Mercy Education gain the legal obligations of belonging to Mercy Education, including, but not limited to:
- Requirements to comply with Mercy Education child protection policies and codes of conduct
 - Fiscal and activity reporting to Mercy Education

- Acceptance of the authority of the Board, and its local delegate, the Principal, over all operations and decisions of the associated entity

A05 Associated entities that are recognised as part of Mercy Education will be permitted to retain significant autonomy over their operations. However, the Principal shall retain rights of veto over all decisions.

A06 This autonomy shall extend to the financial operations of the associated entity. However, all funds must be held in an account in the name of Mercy Education, with Mercy Education's bank, and the Principal and Business Manager of the College must be able to operate the account independent of any other office-bearers.

A07 Associated entities which are not currently incorporated and which do not meet the definitions outlined at A02, must make a decision about their future legal status from the following options:

- a. Apply for recognition as part of Mercy Education
- b. Apply for approval to incorporate as a separate legal entity
- c. Close down the entity

A08 Associated entities referred to at A07 must complete a transition pathway within 12 months of the date of this policy. After that time any existing approvals (implicit or explicit) to use Mercy Education resources (including, but not limited to, buildings, sporting facilities, use of school name) will be automatically withdrawn.

Associated Procedures:

Procedure 1.03B: Associated Entities

Related Documents:

Nil

Review History

Nil

Next Review

2020