**Gender Equity Policy**

**Rationale**
A major part of the academic care charter at St. Benedict’s Catholic College is the development of relationships that allow students to feel valued, safe and supported. The mission statement of the College encourages a “selfless recognition and promotion of the gifts and talents of others”. All people share a common dignity and equal right to fully develop their potential. The school environment plays an integral role in ensuring that both sexes develop positive attitudes and self-esteem towards their own gender and that of the opposite sex.

**Guidelines**
1. The College will provide appropriate pastoral programs and ideals to counter gender bias.
2. Staff must provide educational experiences which take into account differences between gender and provide equal opportunities and access for all students.
3. KLA’s should place equal emphasis on the acquisition of skills for both girls and boys.
4. The College must give consideration to gender balance in all areas of the school community.
5. College staff should encourage both boys and girls to participate in activities traditionally dominated by the other gender.
6. There should be an awareness of the need for gender inclusive language at all times, in written and verbal communications.
7. Both female and male staff have a responsibility to be positive role models for all students.
8. The issue of gender equity shall be taken into account when promoting vocational education courses and career pathways.
9. The dignity of both male and female shall be respected at all times both in word and action.
10. These guidelines apply to both staff and students.

**Basis of Discretion**
The Principal reserves the right of discretion to make provision for departure from this policy in the event of unforeseen or exceptional circumstances.

**Supporting Documents**

**Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed in 2013 by the policy committee.

**Date of Implementation**

Principal ………………………………………………………….. Date ……………………………