



MSEI POLICY 11.0

NAMING OF COLLEGE BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, GROUNDS, ROADS

The Policy:

The naming of all College facilities, grounds and roads on any property belonging to the Sisters of Mercy Property Association (SOMPA) requires the approval of the Congregation Leader and Council.

Procedures:

1. The Principal will write to MSEI outlining the proposal which will include a description of the part of the property to be named, and the proposed name. In addition, the proposal would normally include a rationale supporting the proposal. The discussion section below may assist.
2. MSEI will consider the proposal and will make a recommendation to the Congregation Leader and Council regarding the suitability of the proposed name.
3. MSEI will notify the Principal of Council's decision.

Principals and School Councils may like to take the following into consideration:

The naming of a College, College buildings, or College precincts provides an excellent opportunity to honour a person who has been a significant contributor to Catholic, and, more specifically, to Mercy education and culture. It provides an opportunity for the College community to learn something about Catholic/Mercy history when the opportunity to celebrate feast days or name days arises. These, in turn, provide opportunities to include articles in newsletters which intend to strengthen College culture. It is necessary to conduct some research into the lives of persons whose names are to be used.

The use of a particular name should provide College communities with an exemplar whose actions can be related readily to one or more of the Christian virtues, and hence stand as someone whose life and deeds would offer inspiration.

It is not helpful to use the term "role model" in this context. A role is something an actor carries out, putting on a face for a performance, and then moving on to another role and another face. "Role" in this sense is essentially unauthentic and ephemeral. The education a College offers to its whole community aims at having individuals come to a free and independent acceptance of Jesus Christ and his way, not by unthinkingly following another but by drawing on many sources to deepen and broaden understanding and growth in faith.



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Thus, some effort is required in terms of studying the lives of possible candidates.

Questions to be investigated might include:

1. How do their lives contribute to the Mercy charism?
2. Can stories be told of advocacy for justice?
3. How does the person relate to others by way of good humour, hospitality, forgiveness, intelligence?
4. What legacy has this person left, what benefit might a teenager or adult gain from knowing this person?

It is recommended that the names of living people not be applied to buildings and plant. If a College wishes to honour a living person it is recommended that this be done by way of an annual prize, a scholarship, or some other award. The justification for this is that future revelations may render such naming inappropriate. It is much simpler to drop an annual award than to go through a process of renaming a building.