



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Pastoral Care Policy

[Vision & Mission Statement](#)

Introduction

Pastoral care is implicit in our vision statement. Our vision, centred on Jesus as shepherd, invites every member of our community to follow the model of Jesus as shepherd by showing mutual care, respect and cooperation.

This policy articulates what is meant by pastoral care. It provides a set of guiding principles to be used as a reference point for evaluating existing policies and practices and developing new policies to address identified needs. This policy also provides links to school practices and policies relating to pastoral care.

Aims

This Pastoral Care Policy aims to:

- Enhance positive relationships and connectedness across the whole school community by promoting mutual respect, communication, security and well-being.
- Recognise and nurture approaches to learning and teaching, across all curriculum areas, which endorse pastoral care.
- Coordinate and link policies and programs within the school with a particular focus on pastoral care.

Defining Pastoral Care

Our Sacred Heart Community believes that Pastoral Care is:

- Founded on a profound *belief in* the dignity of a person, created in the likeness of God, who is worthy of love and respect.
- Embracing a network of care which is supportive of the family and *pervades every facet of the school curriculum and culture.*
- Implementing a belief about the *partnership* between students, staff, family, church and the wider community to nurture the holistic development of all the members of the school community.



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- A life-giving focus that is a response to each person's needs of self-esteem, positive discipline, effective learning, purpose in life and moral and personal development, experienced within the ethos of a gospel-based community.

Key Principles of Pastoral Care

- Pastoral care is an expression of the ethos of the school, especially endorsing gospel values of justice, inclusion, reconciliation and respect.
- Everyone in the school is involved in pastoral care.
- Pastoral care is both implicit and explicit in the way it happens. Everyday situations provide opportunities for implicit care. Explicit care is planned and programmed according to discerned needs and available resources.
- Pastoral care is integral to the enterprise of learning and teaching
- Pastoral care is not problem centred: It is characterized by love, kindness and a celebration of living
- Pastoral care is proactive, rather than a pattern of reacting to situations which may have been anticipated
- Pastoral care respects the individual's rights and freedoms. Confidentiality is respected.
- Pastoral care has legal implications for the school eg. Custody, indemnity
- Pastoral care requires a diversity of approaches and programs to cater for students who do not fit easily into society or the school curriculum.
- Pastoral care utilizes the power of peer support (student/student, staff/staff, parent/parent)
- Pastoral care requires good communication between members of the school community

Dimensions of Pastoral Care

Pastoral care features in the following community activities, processes and procedures:

- **The Whole School Community**
 - Orientation days for new parents and students
 - Liturgies
 - Prayer



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- Assemblies and Para liturgies
- School Board
- P & F and functions
- Parent/teacher interviews
- Information nights for Sacramental Programs
- Class buddy system
- School/Parish/Community celebration days such as the Feast of the Sacred Heart Day
- Public and private acknowledgement of special occurrences and achievements
- Volunteer support for school-based activities
- School Newsletters
- Peer support sessions

- **Classroom Community**
 - Effective and inclusive learning and teaching practices
 - Student participation in setting class expectations / norms
 - Positive behaviour management
 - Programs for the provision of special needs
 - Assessment focusing on achievement
 - Celebration of special events and achievements
 - Access to Counselling through Centacare

- **Staff Community**
 - Prayers: Monday mornings and daily at the end of recess
 - Weekly staff meetings
 - Staff masses for people with special needs
 - Social functions organized by the Social Committee
 - The celebration of birthdays, special events and achievements
 - Opportunities for professional development
 - Communication through staff trays
 - Messages and term timetables on the staffroom whiteboards
 - Beginning Teacher Support
 - Orientation of New Staff
 - Mutual Support – staff prayer, personal interaction, emotional support, physical support.
 - Sharing – professionally (teaching resources, programs, ideas, co-operative planning, team-work) and personally.