

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

HENSCHKE
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



2019 Registration



PASTORAL CARE POLICY

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 Henschke 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.
- 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.
- The main role of our School Chaplain is to provide pastoral care to students, families and staff members.
- 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:

- Orientation days for new parents and students
- Masses, liturgies and prayer
- Assemblies
- School Council
- P & F and functions
- Parent/teacher interviews
- Information nights for Sacramental Programs
- Peer support and class buddy system
- Community celebration days such as Presentation Day, Henschke Day
- Acknowledgement of special occurrences and achievements
- School Newsletters
- Henschke Food Bank
- Effective and inclusive learning and teaching practices
- Student participation in setting class expectations / norms
- Positive behaviour management
- Well-being Committee
- Access to Counselling through Centacare
- Restorative sessions
- Working with School Chaplain or Aboriginal Community Worker
- Staff social functions
- The celebration of birthdays, special events and achievements
- Opportunities for professional development and staff spirituality days
- Beginning Teacher Support]
- Orientation of New Staff
- Access to Employee Assistance Program

GRIEF AND LOSS PROCEDURES

In situations of grief and loss, it is recommended that there is provision for:

- Regular and consistent support from the school executive
- Support in the classroom when delivering the sad news
- A special mass with those concerned
- Staff prayers
- Counselling for those concerned
- Resources to be made available to those affected.

The Seasons for Growth program is also available for those students affected by grief and loss.