



Rationale

At St Joseph's Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all students. We commit to providing Pastoral Care that is based on respect for the dignity and uniqueness of the individual person who is made in the image of God. It is an individual and community response to Jesus' call to: love one another as I have loved you (John 13.34). When Catholic Education is faithful to the call of the Gospel, compassion, justice and reconciliation are evident throughout the life of the education community.

Aims

Pastoral Care respects the God given dignity of each child and focus on the development of a school community that is safe, supportive and inclusive of all. The action taken within the educational community by its leaders and community members to promote and enhance the wellbeing of the individual of a personal, social, physical, emotional, mental or spiritual nature. Key elements of wellbeing are positive self-regard, respect for others, positive relationships, responsible behaviours and personal resilience.

Implementation

The leadership team, teachers and non-teaching staff members will exercise their pastoral responsibilities under the leadership of the Principal. Parents exercise their responsibility by providing positive support and collaborative engagement with the school in support of student and school community wellbeing.

Respectful and cooperative school-family relationships provide an effective channel of pastoral care for students. Schools and families share responsibility for developing and maintaining such relationships of trust, characterised by respect for the goodwill of the other and a willingness to engage collaboratively.

Student and Staff wellbeing is best achieved within a school environment that is safe, supportive, inclusive and empowering, where diversity is respected and valued, where human rights and the common good are honoured, where inter-relationships are positive, where students experience connectedness and engagement, and where those experiencing difficulty or special need receive particular care and support. Enhanced student wellbeing contributes significantly to improved student learning outcomes. Effective pastoral care is therefore recognised as promoting the achievement of learning outcomes and thus contributing to a School Improvement Framework.

Effective whole-of-school approaches to pastoral care require age-appropriate behavioural education and skilling of students, and pastorally driven management of student behaviour through processes focused on both individual and community wellbeing, and on ensuring a just and reasonable balance of individual and community rights, needs and responsibilities.

References

- BDSAC Pastoral Care Policy 2016
- Critical Incidents Procedures' (CEOB 2015)
- BDSAC Guidelines for Behavioural Support' (2016)
- CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety
- Ministerial Order 870
- St Joseph's Primary School First Aid Guidelines

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