



ST ALOYSIUS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, QUEENSCLIFF

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Rationale – Based on *Catholic Education Melbourne June 2016 (Revised)*

At St Aloysius Catholic Primary School the Pastoral Care Policy is grounded in the philosophy of student wellbeing and the school mission whereby there is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the St Aloysius Child Safety Policy.

A fundamental belief for Catholic schools is that in Jesus is seen as God's image and likeness in its human expression, and that Jesus' values and teachings show all people 'the way, the truth and the life' (*John 14:6*). In accordance with this belief, values to be promoted within a Catholic school's understanding and practice of pastoral care include love, respect, compassion, tolerance, forgiveness, repentance, reconciliation and justice.

Pastoral care of students in the context of this policy at St Aloysius Catholic Primary School refers to action taken within our school by its leaders and community members to promote and enhance student wellbeing of a personal, social, physical, emotional, mental or spiritual nature. Key elements of student wellbeing are positive self-regard, respect for others, positive relationships, responsible behaviours and personal resilience. Pastoral care of students is effected in many aspects of school life, and especially in a school's vision and mission statements, policies, procedures, programs, teaching and learning curriculum, student activities, student support and wellbeing services, behaviour management processes, family engagement, community partnerships, and school climate.

Principles

1. Foundational to the nature of pastoral care in Catholic schools is the belief that each person is created in the image and likeness of God (*Genesis 1:27*), with the inherent dignity that this implies, and all are created as social beings, with the mutual rights, obligations and needs that this implies.
2. Pastoral care at PCW affirms and gives expression to the belief that 'the person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: this is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school.'
3. Schools 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. Leadership at PCW is committed to providing a safe school for all students.

4. 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.
5. Student 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. The curriculum at PCW is safe for all students, and promotes the development of students' wellbeing.
6. 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. Teachers at PCW are provided with professional learning to ensure they are able to support and promote effective pastoral care.
7. 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.
8. Effective school-community partnerships offer opportunities for networks of pastoral care for students. Appropriate local services and agencies may be identified, and links or partnerships developed, to support the needs of students and their families and to enhance this school's own pastoral initiatives.

References:

CEM - Policy 2.26 Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools

National Safe Schools Framework -

https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/national_safe_schools_framework.pdf

St Aloysius Catholic Primary School is committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children, including those with a disability.

CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety.

This school community promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children