



PASTORAL CARE POLICY & PROCEDURE

POLICY

VISION

Saint David's Parish School is a vibrant, inclusive, Catholic community inspired by St Mary MacKillop fostering faith and learning so as to nurture optimistic, compassionate people of the world.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to articulate the position of Saint David's Parish School in relation to pastoral care within our community.

DEFINITION

Pastoral Care of children, young people, families and staff refers to all actions taken by our school leaders and community members in all areas of school life to promote and enhance personal, social, physical, mental or spiritual wellbeing of all in our care.

POLICY

Saint David's Parish School is committed to promoting safe, supportive and inclusive environments by:

- supporting the pastoral care of all children, staff and families in our school community as a central focus of our Catholic identity
- recognising and respecting the inherent dignity of each person as core to the mission of Catholic education
- enacting Catholic social justice teaching that positions pastoral care of the individual within the common good
- promoting the safety and wellbeing of all
- building respectful relationships that demonstrate care and concern for all in Catholic learning communities
- developing pastoral care programs, services and initiatives that contribute significantly to improved student wellbeing and improved learning outcomes
- implementing age appropriate social and emotional learning for children
- supporting effective networks of care and partnerships that include school based and community services to support the needs of children, their families and staff
- building the capacity of children and young people to care for themselves and others

PROCEDURE

Pastoral Care is an expression of the care and concern we have for each other as part of the Catholic identity of our school. It demonstrates our belief that each person is made in the image of God, created with an inherent dignity, each formed as a social being with mutual rights, responsibilities and needs that are met in community.

Pastoral care affirms and gives expression to the belief that each person and their material and spiritual beliefs are at the heart of Christ's teaching and human flourishing is an important goal of our school.

PRACTICES

Pastoral care is articulated in many aspects of school life, especially in the schools' vision and mission statements, policies, procedures, programs, teaching and learning curriculum, student activities, student and staff support and wellbeing services, student behaviour processes, family engagement, community partnerships and school culture and Catholic identity.

Pastoral care is lived developed and nurtured through staff participating in professional learning to build capability.

All staff are responsible for pastoral care, however, some staff have a leadership responsibility in this area. These include: Principals, Deputy Principals, Assistant Principals Religious Identity and Mission (APRIMS), School Counsellor, Chaplain and Classroom Teachers.

Our school will develop and nurture pastoral care by:

- promoting the safety and wellbeing of children in learning programs and support services
- providing a school environment that is safe, supportive, inclusive, and empowering for all
- respecting and celebrating diversity, with a focus on understanding human rights and supporting the common good

- modelling and developing respectful relationships between staff members and with students and families
- providing a supportive environment where those experiencing difficulty or special need receive particular care and support
- providing opportunities where people experience connectedness and engagement including:
 - religious and spiritual formation and renewal initiatives for staff, students and families
 - social emotional learning programs
 - mental health initiatives
 - healthy living programs and social events
 - student led outreach initiatives and events
 - community building initiatives and community service projects
 - student leadership groups
 - social action groups and enterprise initiatives
 - friendship, wellbeing and mentoring support including counselling
 - mentoring and restorative practices

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Building Respectful Relationships Policy

Bullying & Harassment Policy

Care, Protection and Wellbeing of Children Policy

Duty of Care Policy

DATE FOR REVIEW

Implemented: 2023

Ratified by School Board: 2023

Next Review: 2026