

PASTORAL CARE



Also see “Child Protection”, “Discipline”, “Crisis Management Plan” and “Code of Conduct”

We believe:

1. We must love one another as God has loved us – unconditionally and self-sacrificially.
2. Each student is precious - a unique creation of a loving and awesome God
3. Christ’s death is the highest price for every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain
4. Pastoral care addresses the present and the future – from now until eternity.
5. The family, church and school work in partnership when caring for young people
6. Self-esteem is built upon the layers of value in God’s eyes, the Gospel, self-confidence and meaning, love from others and resilience.
7. Our world is exciting, beautiful, good and challenging as well as broken, ugly, troubled and evil.

and we recognise:

1. Learning and positive behaviour are enhanced by effective pastoral care
2. The basic emotional needs of students are:
 - a. Recognition (Notice me and let me notice you.)
 - b. Love (Love me and let me love you.)
 - c. Interest (Interest me and let me interest you.)
 - d. Help (Help me and let me help you.)
 - e. Direction (Impact me and let me impact you.)
 - f. Freedom (Inspire me and let me inspire you.)
 - g. Hope (Give me hope and let me give you hope.)
3. Effective pastoral care will limit and address issues of violence, physical threats, verbal abuse, threats, sexual harassment and racial vilification.

therefore we will:

1. Care for the physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual and social well-being of our delightful students. (This is the responsibility of all staff members.)
2. Equip and support Home Class Teachers who will specifically exercise forthright pastoral care of the students in their Home Class.
3. Implement small pastoral care groups for all secondary students.
4. Promote students' care for each other via Student Leadership, buddy systems, training, expectations, counselling, peer mediation, peer support and general encouragement.
5. Activate the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program via the Pastoral Care Coordinator. (This is a funded service provided by the Federal Government.) This program will involve annual community consultation. Parents and students are informed via the newsletter of the voluntary nature of this service and this consent is sought by the Pastoral Care Coordinator before any counselling.
6. Teach in such a way that each student:
 - a. feels safe
 - b. knows that their strengths, weaknesses and disabilities are accepted
 - c. experiences forgiveness, mercy, dignity, prayer, challenge, love and a sense of belonging
 - d. can live what they are learning in authentic ways.
7. Promote the use of professional counsellors (preferably Christian) as needed.
8. Record and file information as needed.

PASTORAL CARE GROUPS – Secondary

Each secondary student is a member of a small pastoral care group with 6-7 of their classmates. A Teacher or Associate staff member leads each group.

The groups usually meet every week for 15 minutes (in lieu of Home Class Time).

The **purposes** are:

1. Provide an individual and intimate approach to caring for students as they experience the delights and challenges of puberty.
2. Effectively "scratch where students are itching"
3. Allow flexibility of groupings as needed (male / female; mature / immature; shy / outgoing)
4. Ensure that pastoral care is efficient and effective
5. Provide opportunity for staff members to have an impact in students' lives and vice versa.
6. Provide opportunity for Associate staff to get involved with students and for them to activate their gifts.

Participation in a pastoral care group involves:

Being what we believe –

living Christ's story in our lives; being vulnerable; being transparent (but maintaining adult / young person relationship); praying; being ourselves; avoiding disclosing unneeded personal info; evangelising

Relating in a Christ-like way –

being self-sacrificial; listening more than talking; being patient, kind, merciful, understanding; making random acts of kindness; showing interest in life outside school; spoiling the kids; checking that all is well with school life; chatting about life - chewing the fat, shooting the breeze etc; offering pastoral care as needed; meeting individually

Unfolding life in the shadow of the Cross -

exploring a Bible passage; relating Christian faith to issues; working thru things with the students (not necessarily having all the answers); maintaining the school's Reformed outlook (God's sovereign, effective, irresistible grace and His sovereignty over all of life); honouring the student's current stage of faith; acknowledging that everyone has some sort of faith; maintaining Jesus' life, death, resurrection and return as the core of Scripture.

Inspiring students in the light of Jesus' resurrection and return -

Insisting that one person speaks at a time; reminding, reprimanding, removing and referring (to Exec) students who misbehave (Pastoral Care Group Leaders should not recompense, nor reform...see Discipline Levels); insisting that students remain focused on the task or topic at hand; surprising students; implementing quality ideas that will maintain student motivation; drawing / writing the group's thinking in a scrap book. (NB There will be no competition between groups.)

Structuring procedures that are in harmony with our Christian outlook –

Leaders are free to arrange their group and organise activities in ways that they feel is most appropriate for their students and for themselves; the main theme and guidelines should be maintained (the destination is required – the journey might vary from group to group); complete meeting activities in whatever order is desired; adding a special activity; having students keep a journal; recording the group's findings/journey.

Enabling students to be responsible disciples of Jesus in an exciting, yet broken world -

Doing things together as a group – having morning tea together, having a lunchtime activity, attending a group member's family funeral as school reps; doing random acts of kindness; remembering birthdays, having special treats, getting Maccas for lunch etc; responding to what has been unfolded in authentic ways (writing a letter to the Editor; giving money etc); making contact with parents as needed.

PASTORAL CARE COORDINATOR

(Funded in part by the Federal Government's National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program)

The Pastoral Care Coordinator works within the direct supervision of the Principal. (The Principal will act as Complaints Officer with regard to the NSCSWP.)

The PCC provides pastoral care and general spiritual, social and emotional comfort to all students irrespective of their faith or beliefs. This will include such things as support and guidance about ethos, values, relationships and spiritual issues, the provision of student welfare, and enhancing engagement with the broader community. The PCC will uphold the Values for Australian Schooling.

The K-12 PCC is involved with a variety of activities:

1. Counsel students (with consent by the student and their parents / carers, with the accommodation of varying student faith backgrounds and without proselytising, and with a desire to help students explore their own spirituality)
2. Counsel families and staff
3. Run parenting programs
4. Be involved with the management of critical incidents e.g. times of grief, times of personal or emotional challenges
5. Refer students to appropriate professional services
6. Keep staff abreast of necessary information to ensure that they are equipped to fulfil their pastoral care responsibilities
7. Advocate for the pastoral care needs of students
8. Advocate for change in the school community as needed
9. Oversee Secondary Pastoral Care groups (Impact Groups)
10. Run positive peer relations training (including aspects of anti-bullying and conflict resolution)
11. Comply with all aspects of the Federal Government's National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program, which includes such things as annual community consultation, seeking consent from parents and students, and maintaining a Risk Management Plan.