



## STUDENT PASTORAL CARE POLICY

### RATIONALE

Sacred Heart College is a Catholic, learning, faith community in the Mercy tradition that has at its centre the dignity of each person. At Sacred Heart College, our Mercy Values of Respect and Justice compel us to ensure this is a place where everyone is cared for, where the wellbeing of all College community members is cherished and developed and where all young people have a right to a positive learning experience, respecting diversity and individual difference. We strive to do this through offering a rich, broad curriculum, which nurtures faith, provides personalised learning, promotes healthy personal relationships, stresses the importance of student leadership and agency, and promotes self-discipline and responsibility.

### POLICY STATEMENT

Pastoral care of students in the context of this policy refers to action taken within our College by our 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 the College 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 the College 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 SHC 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.

Workplace participants at the College 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.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The College Leadership Team will ensure that:

- the Pastoral Care Policy is available to all in the community
- policies and activities in the College reflect the pastoral care of students
- relevant professional development is available to workplace participants
- effective mechanisms for integrating behaviour development, conflict resolution, and curriculum support for those in need are developed collaboratively

Workplace participants at the College will ensure that:

- the Pastoral Care Policy and its related documents are known and practised
- contribution is made to the provision of a caring, well-managed, safe environment for the entire community
- participation occurs in the learning and teaching process in ways that take into account the dignity of the human person in the light of the Mercy values
- effective conflict resolution is taught and practised

Students are encouraged to:

- behave in a manner reflective of this policy and related policies
- contribute to the provision of a caring, safe environment for the College community
- participate actively and cooperatively in the learning and teaching process
- provide their views on school community decisions using appropriate processes
- learn and practise effective respectful relationship practices

Families are encouraged to:

- participate in the academic, social, emotional, physical, religious/spiritual and cultural development of their children
- actively participate in the life of the College where appropriate
- share responsibility for shaping their children's understanding about appropriate behaviour
- support the provision of a caring, safe environment for the College community in light of the Mercy values

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

### **Policies**

- Child Safety and Empowerment Policy
- Student Behaviour Development Policy
- Inclusive Communities Policy
- ICT Policy
- Student Support Services Policy

### **Other Documents**

- Personal Respect and Dignity Statement
- College Expectations

## REFERENCES

CEM - Policy 2.26 Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools  
[National Safe Schools Framework](#)

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date Approved: 31 July 2019

Name: Anna Negro

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date presented at Council Meeting:

Person Responsible for Implementation: Deputy Principal – Student Development

Last amended: 2019

Next Review Date: 2022

Location Checklist:  Staff Handbook  Canvas – Student Space  Parent Portal  Website