PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Definition of Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is the environment which is founded on Catholic values that are touchstones of the Mercy heritage and charism and characterized by the presence of genuine caring, compassion and respect towards all the school community; students, parents, staff and friends.

Rationale

Each person is to be respected and acknowledged as a valuable member of the Catherine McAuley Community. We seek to establish a relationship and partnership with staff, parents and students which promotes mutual understanding, respect, tolerance and acceptance. We endeavor to develop a school community that is inclusive and compassionate and appreciative of indigenous Australians.

Objectives

To provide and maintain such an environment, we are encouraged to:

- Become living witnesses to the Gospel values of truth, justice, freedom, love and hospitality;
- Create a friendly, safe and supportive community environment where all individuals are treated with respect and dignity;
- Provide a God-centred way of life and a commitment to excellence in girl’s education striving for personal best in all that we do;
- Encourage links with students’ parishes through the School Chaplain;
- Encourage all to share their giftedness and energies in the Mercy spirit;
- Support staff in the development of the whole person;
- Support staff, students and families in time of personal need, grief, sickness and stress;
- Give every opportunity to parents, who enter into an educational partnership with the School, to share in their daughter’s intellectual, emotional and spiritual development.

Strategies

- Year Coordinators and Homeroom teachers are the first and regular point of pastoral care within the school. They see to the pastoral growth of students in their care, especially in their spiritual, social, emotional and psychological growth.
- Staff recognition of the following:- reward and encouragement through the Merit System, daily prayer, involvement in liturgical preparation and celebration, positive reinforcement of the school’s Behaviour Code and Student Charter.
• Modelling of respect, honesty, responsibility, truth and diligence by all members of the school community.
• The provision of professional development in pastoral care for all school staff, including appreciation of the individual differences between students.
• Staff availability for dialogue with parents in all areas of their daughter’s growth and education.
• Student to access the School Counsellor either by referral or by personal approach.
• Aboriginal educational issues to be addressed through student support and pastoral care.
• All student medication to be monitored.
• School to encourage parish links through visiting celebrants, Principal’s letters, newsletter information from parishes, consultation on matters of pastoral, financial, or enrolment where appropriate
• The Pastoral care of students is seen in conjunction with all other policies which operate within the school, including:
  • Anti-Bullying / Harassment Policy
  • Behaviour Management Policy
  • Merit Awards
  • Student Learning Plan
  • Camp Policy
  • Child Protection Policy
  • Mobile Phone/IPod Policy
  • Road Safety Policy
  • Safe School Policy
  • Staff – Student Contact Policy
  • Student Leaving Procedure
  • Student Leadership
  • Special Needs Policy

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