

PASTORAL CARE



RATIONALE

The quality of Pastoral Care influences the culture and feeling of the whole school. It creates an atmosphere in which children feel secure, valued and encouraged in their learning, growth and social development. It will inform and reassure parents that their children are being educated in a safe, caring and healthy environment.

Each person is respected and acknowledged as a valuable member of the School community. We seek to establish a relationship and partnership with staff, parents and students which promotes mutual understanding, respect, tolerance and acceptance.

DEFINITION

Pastoral Care is an approach to education which attempts to value and develop each member of the school community. It addresses the social, cognitive, emotional, spiritual and physical needs of the students so that each child has the opportunity to reach his/her potential, and acquire skills to cope with life.

AIMS

- To create a safe and healthy environment in which the children feel secure and nurtured.
- To promote the development of the whole child.
- To help the children grow in self-worth, confidence and independence of thought.
- To communicate to the children, values and beliefs, that are in keeping with our philosophy.
- To protect the children from physical, social, emotional and intellectual harm and to provide them with the skills to cope with possible threats to their personal safety, both within and outside school.
- To encourage tolerance, empathy and sensitivity to the needs of others.
- To promote warm, positive and respectful relationships between children, staff and parents.
- Encourage all to share of their giftedness and energies in a spirit of service;
- Support staff through structures which allow for personal and professional growth;
- Give every opportunity to parents, who enter into an educational partnership with their children's educators, to share in their children's intellectual, emotional and spiritual development;
- Support staff, students and families in times of grief, sickness and stress.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Teachers are available for dialogue with parents in all areas of their child's growth and education.
- Planned times are set aside for both formal and informal dialogue on students' progress.
- Each class teacher, the first and regular point of pastoral contact within the school, sees to the pastoral growth of the students in their care, especially in their spiritual, social, emotional and psychological growth.
- The Pastoral care of students is seen in conjunction with all other policies which operate within the school.
- The values of respect, honesty, responsibility, diligence and truth are encouraged.
- The provision of professional development in pastoral care is made available to all staff.
- To allow students the ownership of their own pastoral care.
- An appreciation on the part of class teachers to acknowledge the individual differences of their students.
- Provision of assistance in finding additional support from other professionals (e.g. counsellor, speech therapists) as required or requested.

CONCLUSION

Pastoral Care is fully integrated into the school's daily routines and its curriculum. The safety, health and wellbeing of each member of the School community is of paramount importance.

LEGISLATIVE LINKS

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

Security, Workplace Health and Safety

SOURCES

REVIEW DATES

*Approved: May 2009, Reviewed, February 2010,
Reviewed: September 2011, Reviewed: March 2014
Reviewed: March 2015, Reviewed 2016*

