

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

Policy Number	07/10
Policy Name	Pastoral Care Policy
Applicability	All System Schools
Contact Person	Director of Schools
Status	Endorsed
Date of Approval	8 August 2007
Date Last Amended	2013
Related Policies/Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe School Policy • Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion Policy • Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion Procedures
Review Period:	2017

STUDENT WELFARE/PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Rationale

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga are committed to “providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment conducive to learning”.¹ This is characterised by endorsing the gospel values of justice, inclusion, reconciliation, respect, truth and honesty.

A safe and secure environment is developed when all members of the school community respect the individual’s rights and freedoms, responsibilities and duties, as well as responding to the needs of students, staff and community.

Policy Statement

Pastoral Care refers to the total care of the student. It involves recognising and developing each student as a unique person in the context of society and our Church.

All schools in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga are committed to providing a comprehensive quality education for all students taking into account their age, background, ability and interests.

Pastoral Care and how it is expressed provides direct witness of Christ’s love for humanity.

Supporting Statements

Pastoral Care is a term used to describe both an attitude and a process, and is based upon the dignity of the person.

In a Catholic School, it is expressed through:

- the development of quality relationships
- the provision of satisfying learning experiences
- the establishment of an effective care network
- the provision of experiences and structures that provide for the integrated spiritual and human growth of students

The CSO encourages our students:

- to develop self-reliance
- to take responsibility for their own welfare and development
- to contribute to the welfare of others
- to contribute to the life of the school community

Our schools are committed to being places where every student can learn and grow with confidence and where teaching and learning occur in the context of Pastoral Care.

All Diocesan schools provide their own pastoral procedures for their local context which are available for school community members.

Context

Pastoral Care in our schools:

- encompasses everything the school community does to meet the personal, social, learning and spiritual needs of students;
- creates a safe, caring school environment in which students are nurtured as they learn;
- is achieved through the total school curriculum and the way it is delivered;
- incorporates effective discipline;
- incorporates preventative health and social skills programs;
- stresses the value of collaborative early intervention when problems are identified;
- provides ongoing educational services to support students;
- recognises the diversity within the school community and provides programs and support which acknowledge difference and promote harmony;
- recognizes the role that the school plays as a resource to link families with community support services;
- provides opportunities for students to:
 - enjoy success and recognition;
 - make a useful contribution to the life of the school;
 - realise enjoyment from their learning.
- recognises, values and protects the uniqueness, potential and dignity of each student and the student's right to privacy and confidentiality;
- is sensitive to each student's religious, social and cultural background and affirms the richness of this diversity;
- fosters the development of students' self-esteem and their ability to interact harmoniously and productively with others;
- leads students towards increased responsibility for personal decision making and action in accordance with Gospel values;
- is committed to justice and equity for all students and follows practices which lead to equitable educational opportunities and outcomes;
- supports the development and implementation of behaviour management strategies consistent with Diocesan policies;
- provides an environment which promotes the spiritual, physical, emotional, social, cultural and intellectual well-being of all students;
- creates relationships within the school community, which are based on trust, honesty and integrity.

Our schools are committed to providing effective learning and teaching within a secure, well-managed environment, in partnership with parents, caregivers and the wider school community.

Endorsed at DCSC Meeting on 8 August 2007.