



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, ALTONA

STUDENT WELLBEING / PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of all our pastoral work.

He provides the model on which we base all our dealings with people.

We acknowledge that Pastoral Care/Student Wellbeing involves care of, for and by the total community.

As children come into contact most often with staff, it is they who must provide

A model of 'care' and all that is implicit in that role.

Every person in the St. Mary's School community is a participant in our Pastoral Care Program.

BELIEFS ABOUT STUDENT WELLBEING / PASTORAL CARE

We believe that STUDENT WELLBEING / PASTORAL CARE is about:

- Building community through a sense of relationships.
- Growth and care of each individual - through personal interaction which acknowledges that each child is a unique gift from God.
- Preparing our children to live a happy and fulfilling life within a community.
- Meeting the specific needs of individuals through early intervention and provision of after care.

METHODOLOGY

At St. Mary's School we practice Student Wellbeing / Pastoral Care in all that we do with other people, but particularly with the children in our care.

There are many ways in which our Pastoral nature is displayed. These can include:

- Supporting individuals in their endeavours
- Fair behaviour management policies and procedures
- Guidance, support and positive role modelling
- Celebrating successes and recognising achievements
- Developing personal relationships with each child and family
- Positive encouragement of all individuals
- Communication with parents and carers
- Friendly smiles
- Shared responsibility for all children in our school
- A welcoming attitude to all visitors to the school

STRATEGIES:

We believe that the pastoral care of our students involves the development of the whole person: spiritually, socially, emotionally, academically, physically and psychologically. We believe that to provide for the needs of our students and families that our pastoral care programs must be representative of the changing needs of the community.

Therefore, we run a number of initiatives which promote Student Wellbeing / Pastoral Care including:

- Buddy System: Prep & Year 6
- Student Leadership opportunities: School Leaders, Wellbeing and Social Justice Leaders, House Captains and JSC representatives

- Parent Support Group for parents of children with special Social & Emotional needs
- Restorative Practice and Circle Time
- Drug Education delivered through our Integrated Units and our Health and Physical Education and Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum.
- Personal Development Program (Year 5/6)
- Social & Emotional Learning Curriculum
- Seasons: Grief and Loss Program
- Whole school liturgies and assemblies
- Student support groups and Individual Learning Plans
- Support for teachers through PLT's, Professional Development and release time

Strategies and actions that also support Student Wellbeing / Pastoral Care may include:

General:

- Home contact
- Encouraging and supporting others
- Taking the time to learn about others, to 'hear' their story
- Personalising our interaction with others by talking with them
- Being aware of moods, emotions, responses of others
- Encouraging and maintaining positive, honest communication
- Giving affirmation

Children

- Involvement in personal growth programs
- Combining year level experiences i.e. Paraliturgies, Assemblies etc.
- Being active participants in the Pastoral life of the school.

Parents

- Encourage involvement in school and parish activities
- Encourage parents to be active participants in the Pastoral life of the school
- Encourage attendance at parent/teacher information & reporting meetings
- Support and encourage children, teachers and other parents in their roles within our community.

Staff

- Being positive and acting justly in the guidance of children
- Shared staff decision making
- Support and encourage parents in their role
- Support and encourage fellow teachers in their role
- Provide for regular discussion of Pastoral care needs and issues
- Attend specific Professional Learning days
- Implement Personal Growth programs
- Demonstrate a commitment to Student Wellbeing / Pastoral Care.