



Pastoral Care Guidelines

RATIONALE

Pastoral Care is an expression of the vision of our school.

“We seek the Spirit, Learn to Love, Love to Learn and Live Life to the full.”

We believe that St James School is a place where Pastoral Care is lived through nurturing relationships in an atmosphere of acceptance, respect and justice for all. It is in this environment that we can all grow into maturity and live holistically. We believe that the key elements to student wellbeing to be developed are positive self-regard, respect for others, positive relationships, responsible behaviours and personal resilience.

We also believe that parents exercise their responsibility by providing positive support and collaborative engagement with the school in support of students and community members.

We value our Christian community, which inspires us to integrate our life and faith.

GOALS

- ◆ To enable all children to grow and be affirmed in their dignity and worth
- ◆ To enable children to appreciate themselves and develop skills in building personal relationships
- ◆ To create an environment which facilitates the development and experience of self-discipline and self-reliance
- ◆ To set up appropriate structures which enables teachers and other professionals to care for the wellbeing of individual children
- ◆ To constantly monitor and review student progress
- ◆ To establish supportive relationships between families, staff and students
- ◆ To ensure that the rights of all members of the school community are respected
- ◆ To provide structures to support independent learning and individual learning styles.
- ◆ To be governed by MACS Pastoral Care of Students Policy

GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

It is through the following documented Guidelines and MACS Policies that the overall welfare and growth of everyone is encouraged:

- ◆ Critical Incidence Guidelines
- ◆ Enrolment Policy
- ◆ Anti - Bullying Policy
- ◆ Complaints Policy
- ◆ Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy
- ◆ Child Protection – Reporting Obligations Policy
- ◆ Assessment and Reporting Statement and Guidelines

- ◆ Teaching and Learning Programs
- ◆ Family Life Program
- ◆ Hot /Wet Weather Program
- ◆ Learning Diversity Supports
- ◆ Initiatives to meet needs: e.g. WOW Groups

STRUCTURES

It is through the following, existing structures that we channel our Pastoral Care:

- **Student Leadership Program**

Each year, school leaders are elected from Year Six. All Year Six students are considered leaders, with some having formal roles.

- **Student Representative Council**

Representatives from each class are voted for by the students and meet the regularly with the Wellbeing Leader to channel the student voice.

- **Buddies System**

A senior student buddies a child starting school in their first year of school. New families are also offered a Family Buddy to help induction into the new community.

- **Collaborative Planning**

School and Level planning teams work to devise the most suitable, challenging programs for all children

- **Establishing Classroom Rules**

This is a collaborative task undertaken by each class group to ensure fairness and safety for all.

- **Counselling Program**

A program offered to children who need this service.

- **Sacramental Program**

Parents are invited to decide as to whether their child is ready to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. They are generally offered to Year 3 and 4 children and Sacrament of Confirmation to Year 6 children.

- **Learning Diversity Support**

Program Support Groups (PSG) Meetings, Personal Learning Plans, National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD), Learning Support Officers, and MACS Student Support Services and other outside agencies and consultations. (E.G. Fine Motor Skill OT Support: Years P-3)

- **Interschool Sports Program**

This program is held with schools in the Whitehorse Division Area for Years 4, 5 & 6, students.

- **School Camps**

This is held annually for Year 5 and 6 students with children from St John's School. Year Six camp has a focus on Outdoor Education and social skills, building Parish links. A Year 5 camp to Sovereign Hill not only encourages social skill development and independence, but a historical setting for learning.

- **Marathon /Breakfast Club**

This initiative is offered during each term, weather permitting to children in Years 3 - 6, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.

- **Interest Groups: e.g. Passive Play / Book Cafe**

Interest groups set up to promote thinking and those who prefer quiet spaces and have particular needs

- **Networks of Care**

- Student Support Agencies
- Parents and Friends' Association
- Parent Helpers
- School Advisory Council
- NDIS Providers
- Supporting Parish Groups (e.g. St Vincent de Paul Society)
- Parent Teacher Communication
- Catholic Care Counselling Services
- Learning Diversity Practices
- Behaviour Management Practices

EVALUATION

These Guidelines reviewed as part of the school's four-year School Improvement Plan in 2022.

