PASTORAL CARE AND WELLBEING POLICY

ST JOSEPH’S SCHOOL
KINGSWOOD

Reviewed July 2012
St Joseph's Kingswood is all about our children. We create and uphold a nurturing environment for our children, families, teachers, volunteers, and the wider parish. We are a Catholic community of educators and learners who strive for excellence in education, and we are innovative and collaborative in our approach. Our life long purpose is to maintain a sense of belonging for all our children encouraging them to reach their full potential.

1. Purpose

At St Joseph's Parish School the purpose of pastoral care is to ensure that the dignity safety and wellbeing of each individual who is made in the image of God is valued and nurtured with compassion, understanding, reconciliation, patience and confidentiality.

Relationship is at the heart of all pastoral care. We draw inspiration from the charism of Saint Mary MacKillop of the Cross who calls us to “never see a need without responding”

2. Principles

All members of St Joseph's School Kingswood community are challenged to commit themselves to Pastoral Care by;

2.1. Recognizing the dignity of the human person made in the image of God
2.2. Contributing to a welcoming and inclusive community
2.3. Recognizing that quality relationships are pivotal
2.4. Being compassionate and forgiving
2.5. Fostering networks of care
2.6. Respecting and supporting diverse family structures
2.7. Valuing different cultural perspectives and traditions
2.8. Providing contemporary teaching and learning
2.9. Providing opportunities for the development of pastoral care
2.10. Committing to organizational structures that benefit individuals and the school community
2.11. Ensuring appropriate forums are in place for all sections of the community to be involved in decision making on school matters
2.12. Providing necessary support for meaningful, stimulating and appropriate Class and Staff Prayer

3. Accountability

All members of the School Board and school community are responsible for promoting adherence to the policy, and complying with the policy and standards.

4. Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years, or earlier if information becomes available that significantly affects the content of the policy
AIM

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EXPRESSIONS OF COMMITMENT TO PASTORAL CARE

BY MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

1 ROLE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

- Ensure that all issues relating to pastoral care are in keeping with our Catholic ethos
- Ensure that a relevant policy is in place for the pastoral care of St Joseph’s school community
- Revise and review the pastoral care policy at regular intervals
- Maintain the balance between the needs of individuals and the overall needs of the school community

2 ROLE OF LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Ensure that the aims of the policy are met through staffing and relevant school structures
- Ensure that the pastoral care of staff and students is a key dimension in the overall philosophy of the school
- Maintain a relationship with the school community that displays personal care for them
- Ensure that close links are maintained between the school and the students’ families
- Ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in relation to student well being (duty of care issues)
- Work with class teachers in identifying particular students who are in need of additional support (at risk)
- Where behavioural concerns exist, maintain a close relationship between the school and the student’s family
- Run programs appropriate to children’s needs, eg Friendly Schools and Families
- Ensure that there is structured and equitable play areas for all students
- Oversee and maintain the SRC, School Ambassadors, Peer Mediators and School Spirit Team
- Oversee, maintain and continue training students in Peer Mediation. Facilitate whole school training in understanding these issues and procedures
- Have an “Open Door” to students, staff and parents for individual counselling
- Provide access to external counselling as required for individuals or families
3 ROLE OF STAFF
To value, respect and support:

Colleagues by:
- being inclusive
- celebrating achievements
- fair and equitable work practices
- being sensitive to needs and offering positive support
- respecting confidentiality

Children by:
- taking time to listen
- providing a stable, secure environment
- ensuring their safety and well-being
- encouraging and celebrating achievements
- respecting their personal circumstances
- ensuring that they experience success
- nurturing their self-worth
- affirming them as they choose responsible behaviour
- advocating for their rights
- providing specialised structured activities and programmes
- encourage use of the Tenison Connecting Corner to actively listen and connect with others

Parents by:
- listening to their concerns and responding with support and empathy
- communicating in a spirit of partnership with the school

4 ROLE OF STUDENTS
- Keep themselves and others safe
- Respect others’ differences
- Be inclusive
- Stand up for someone being bullied and seek assistance as required
- Respect others’ property
- Encourage others
- Be honest
- Respect the rights and feelings of others
- Follow the leadership from the senior students in particular members of the School Spirit Team, School Ambassadors and Peer mediators.

ROLE OF PARENTS
- communicating in a spirit of partnership with the school
- respect the Catholic ethos of the school community
- Respect confidentiality
- Engage in respectful and reflective conflict resolution in relation to staff, other students, parents and families.
5 OTHER POLICIES WHICH ARE A PART OF OUR PASTORAL CARE

• The following policies, while standing in their own right, form a part of the overall pastoral care of people in our school:

1. Pastoral Care & Supervision Policy (SACCS)
2. Child Protection Policy (SACCS)
3. Personal Responsibility Policy (SACCS)
4. Duty of Care Policy (SACCS)
5. Religious Education Policy (School)
6. Personal Responsibility Policy (School)
7. Student Participation Policy (School)

Teaching and Learning Resources

Friendly Schools and Families Program

MITIOG framework

Crossways framework

Child Protection Curriculum