



St Francis of Assisi
PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Rationale

Pastoral Care at St Francis of Assisi permeates all aspects of the School's life and is shown in the network of relationships that comprise the school community. The model for pastoral care is Christ, the Good Shepherd, who showed respect and compassion to all, especially to those most in need. Whilst there are identifiable procedures that form part of the School's Pastoral Care strategies, it is the pervasive attitude of care and support which is at the heart of this policy.

Aim

The Pastoral Care Policy at St Francis of Assisi aims:

- To provide identifiable structures which will seek to meet the personal and pastoral needs of students, their families and all in the school community.
- To nurture in all members of the school community a sense of belonging to a caring Christian community.
- To develop self-confidence and self-respect in each student.
- To provide a conceptual and practical foundation for the Student Wellbeing Policy and beyond that, to all spheres of the School's life which impact, directly or indirectly, upon the students' wellbeing.
- To nurture within the school, a culture of hospitality and openness which reflects Christ's ministry of welcome.
- To provide on-going support for individuals especially in times of need.

Implementation

- The Pastoral Care Policy forms the basis for the School's Discipline and Student Welfare Policies, Special Needs, Gifted and Talented, Disabilities and Impairments Policies and influences practices which affect the care of all students at St Francis of Assisi School.
- Classroom interactions between teachers and students, reward/sanction procedures, guidance and mentoring strategies and procedures, etc. are all informed by this Policy.
- Specific programs e.g. Seasons Program, are offered to students with particular needs.
- Staff and School Administrators operate with optimal availability to students, parents, teachers and each other.
- A specific and significant element in the role of the REL is focused on the Pastoral Care of students, parents and teachers and visitation is undertaken to families in need.
- Professional counselling is available to students and their parents on a needs basis.
- Students with special needs are supported through identifiable support structures.
- Parent concerns are listened to and addressed as soon as and as extensively as practicable.

Written October, 2016. Last Reviewed October, 2016. To Be Reviewed October, 2019.

- As part of our Pastoral Care Policy we employ a school psychologist from Nirodah to work with children who need extra support either emotionally or socially.