



PASTORAL CARE

Policy

'I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10:10)

Rationale

The College Mission Statement articulates the desire that students have an ability to build bridges with others. Underpinning this is a recognition, that in order to reach beyond self, it is important to have an understanding of self in relationship with others and an appreciation of the biblical teaching that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God.

Pastoral care at Our Lady of Sion College reflects the values of respect, compassion and care for the individual, as well as an understanding of the needs of the school community that may transcend those of the individual. The Pastoral Care Policy embraces aspects that specifically recognise the diverse spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical needs and development of those within this community. We also *"have a moral, legal and mission driven responsibility"* (CECV) to ensure that we remain strongly committed to a culture of child safety and a zero tolerance for child abuse.

This policy is an umbrella document, consistent with the specific requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards as set out in Ministerial Order No. 870, and the expectations of Catholic Education Melbourne, CEM. It should be read in conjunction with the CEM Policy 2.26 'Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools', as well as the Our Lady of Sion Child Safe Code of Conduct and Child Safety Policy, and other specific policies of the College. This includes but is not limited to student management and achievement, creating a safe school (anti-bullying), attendance, critical incident management, health and wellbeing, privacy, cyber safety and responding to substance abuse issues.

Principles

- Pastoral care is central at Our Lady of Sion College and is the responsibility of all members of the school community.
- Collaborative and respectful relationships between parents/guardians, family members, students and staff are integral to the development of effective pastoral care structures and responses.
- Pastoral care is best achieved within a school environment that is safe, supportive, inclusive and empowering; and where
 - diversity is acknowledged and valued
 - respect for self and the other is central and the common good is honoured
 - inter-personal relationships are positive
 - students experience connectedness and engagement
 - those experiencing difficulty or with special need receive particular care and support
 - the link between student well-being and academic achievement is recognised
- All staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy will work within the expectations set out in the Our Lady of Sion Child Safety Policy and Code of Conduct
- The Pastoral Care Policy supports the rights, safety and needs of the individual, and also expects each individual to take responsibility for the impact of her actions on the communities of which she is a part.

Implementation

- Specific policies dealing with the various aspects of pastoral care in the College will be used in support of this umbrella policy.



OUR LADY OF SION COLLEGE

- The structures of the College support the effective delivery of targeted pastoral care programs, initiatives and support, such as the homeroom structure, House system and counseling service.
- The Pastoral Care program and, in particular, Pastoral lessons aim to promote and enhance student well-being of a personal, social, physical, emotional, mental and spiritual nature.
- Staff should, where appropriate, seek feedback, ideas and opinions of students and collaboratively work with them as a way to strengthen student voice in the College
- External agencies will be engaged to support or complement the resources of the College where appropriate.
- Specific staff are charged with the leadership and enactment of particular aspects of the Pastoral Care Policy.
- Specialised support teams are established to meet the pastoral needs of students and staff.
- Professional development in the area of pastoral care will be offered on a regular basis for all staff. Staff with particular responsibility will be able to access additional and specific training.
- Student behaviour will be managed in a way that is consistent with restorative practice and which places an emphasis on the creation, maintenance and restoration of positive relationships.
- The College will not use corporal punishment as a way to discipline or manage student behaviour.
- Parents will be engaged in discussions relating to the pastoral care of their daughter as early and as often, as is appropriate.

Review Date: 2022

Ratified by College Board on: August 2018

Supporting Documents:

Ministerial Order No. 870

CEM Policy 2.26 'Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools'

Our Lady of Sion Child Safe Code of Conduct

Our Lady of Sion Child Safety Policy