



Pastoral Care Policy

RATIONALE

“A fundamental belief for Tasmanian Catholic Education as a community is that Jesus’s values and teachings seeks the flourishing of all people: I come that they may have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10).” *TCEO Pastoral and Wellbeing Policy.*

Pastoral Care provides a visible presence of God’s love within the actions, words and demeanour of all within the College. It draws on gospel values of faith, compassion and justice, demonstrating a deep respect and acknowledgement of the dignity of each individual, who is made in the image of God (Genesis 1.27).

Pastoral Care is at the heart of all Catholic schools and institutions. The central tenet of Pastoral Care is to nourish, support, challenge and sustain all members of the school community: students, families, staff and members of the broader community and outreach. As such, a shared understanding of Pastoral Care should inform and influence relationships, and learning and teaching purposes and outcomes. Pastoral Care ensures that all members of the College Community are welcomed, have a voice, and can rely on a network of care and appropriate support when in need.

At St Patrick’s College, the foundation of all Pastoral Care is underpinned by the values of our Mission Statement, which is to be a school community of faith, learning, respect and service in the Catholic tradition.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the scope and principles of Pastoral Care at St Patrick’s College. The policy refers in the broader sense to the Tasmanian Catholic Education (TCEO) Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Policy and specifically refers to and draws upon individual College Policies, including the Behaviour Support Policy, Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy, and all other related Policies.

Definitions used in the Policy have been sourced directly from the TCEO Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Policy.

Definitions:

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is the care for the ‘whole person’, i.e. for the individual’s spiritual, intellectual, social, physical and psychological wellbeing. It originates in profound

respect for the dignity of both the individual person and the community transformed by the values of the gospel.

The origin of the phrase 'pastoral care' is in Jesus's pastoral image of the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-18). Here the Good Shepherd is one who looks after his sheep and will lay down his life for them. Likewise in the Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15: 1-7; Matthew 18: 12-14) the Good Shepherd is the image of a shepherd who has compassion for the 'little ones' who are at risk.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing is a combination of a person's physical, mental, emotional and social health. Positive wellbeing enables students, staff and communities to flourish.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

St Patrick's College places a high priority on the fostering of a positive, welcoming and inclusive community for all of its members.

The College promotes and encourages the development of positive partnerships between school, students, families and the broader community.

An informed, compassionate and educative approach to all aspects of individual and social relationships, interactions and behaviour is actively promoted and pursued across all schools, houses and domains within the College and community. As such, responses and actions provided by the College to individual needs acknowledge the dignity and intrinsic worth of each person, giving consideration to all dimensions of life, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical and social.

Guiding values that are specifically relevant to the St Patrick's College Pastoral Care Policy include:

- *Respect*
- *Belonging*
- *Endeavour*
- *Safety*
- *Service*
- *Compassion*
- *Relationships*
- *Social Justice*

These values are found within the College Mission Statement and key expectations and provide a specific focus and central structure to the behaviours and approaches we would expect to see lived and acted within our community.

PROCEDURES AND ACTIONS

College policies and protocols are informed by gospel values and always seek to promote the intrinsic worth and dignity of individuals, groups and the community.

The College acknowledges and places a high significance on the wellbeing of students, families, staff and all members of the community, ensuring that all members feel cared for, valued and supported appropriately.

Decisions made by the College, groups or individuals, that impact significantly on the lives, wellbeing, education or work of others, give consideration to the key elements of pastoral care outlined in this policy, including reference to all domains (spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social) where relevant.

Behavioural responses and disciplinary policies developed for students place a high degree of significance on being educative in nature, designed to encourage and guide the growth, spiritual development and emotional, intellectual and social maturity of all students.

RELATED GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

TCEO Pastoral and Wellbeing Policy
Anti bullying and Harassment Policy
Attendance Policy
Behaviour Support Policy
Critical Incident Management Policy
Drugs Policy
Learning and Teaching Policy
Professional Behaviour - Student interviews and One to One Situations
Student Occupational Health and Safety Policy
Uniform Code
Work, Health and Safety Policy

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY

The person responsible for the implementation of this policy is the St Patrick's College Principal.

POLICY REVIEW

The policy shall be reviewed every three years, or in the event of any information, incident, injury, or illness that would demonstrate the need for a review, or resulting from any legislative or organisational change that would warrant a review.

POLICY DATES			
Formulated	June 2015	Adopted	August 2015
Implemented	August 2015	Reviewed	
Next Review Date	July 2018		
POLICY AUTHORISATION			
Principal Name	Simon Cobiac	Signature	