

"The whole of life
belongs to God."



St Columba's School

Engaging • Inspiring • Empowering

306 Howard Street, Soldiers Hill 3350

Phone: 5332 4894 Fax: 5331 7196

Email: office@scballarat.catholic.edu.au

www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Rationale

We believe that the Pastoral Care of St Columba's School should enhance students' wellbeing through their respect for self, others, property and the environment. The school will provide a secure, supportive and constant environment highlighting partnerships within the community. While living true to the Gospel values, we respond to the ever-increasing needs to social, economical and cultural diversity within the community. Pastoral Care promotes a deepening of relationships between students, parents, staff, canonical administrator and the wider community.

Definition

Pastoral Care is: 'care for the total well being of every individual' CECV (2008)

Policy Statement

At St Columba's School, Pastoral Care is concerned with the dignity and growth of the individual and is the responsibility of all members of the school community. The development of persons '*who are responsible and inner directed, capable of choosing freely in conformity with their conscience*' (*Catholic School, Sec 31*), is at the core of our Pastoral Care values. We will foster the principles of mutual respect, responsibility and service within the community through Pastoral Care as it permeates the lives of all those in our school community. It is the integration of the academic, social and religious dimensions of our school that will ensure that an atmosphere of care will exist within our school community. Corporal Care will not be used at St Columba's.

Policy Guidelines

Guideline Indicators

<p>Our Pastoral Care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promotes a high quality of interpersonal relationships among teachers, students, parents, Canonical Administrator and ancillary staff.	<p>To implement our Pastoral Care Policy we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liaise with parents through information evenings, newsletters, diaries• Welcome parents into the school.
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- Promotes relationships of trust, co-operation and partnership between the school and family members.
- Promotes respect and sensitivity to diverse cultural values and family structures by the school community.
- Promotes a safe environment for all members of the school community.

Students:

- Need to recognise their own potential for building acceptance, trust, esteem and friendship amongst their peers.
- Should have the opportunity to value themselves and to experience well being.

Parents:

- Need to be supportive of the Pastoral Care and welfare focus of the school.
- Should communicate openly with teachers regarding the development and welfare of their children.

Teachers:

- Will be known as caring, compassionate adults who take a real interest in the development, growth and welfare of their students.
- Will aim at developing self-discipline and responsibility within their students.
- Will encourage a safe, happy, working environment conducive to learning.
- Will maintain the highest level of 'duty of care' in line with CECV guidelines.
- Will aim at providing a comprehensive curriculum responsive to students' unique needs for growth and fulfilment.

- Follow up incidents which occur in classroom/playground and inform parents of same.
- Hold school assemblies to acknowledge and reward positive behaviour.
- Utilise Restorative Practice strategies when dealing with behaviour/bullying issues.

- Offer students programs that encourage and promote experiences in positive life skills
- Develop respect for and acceptance and understanding of different cultures through different topics studied in the curriculum.

- Offer parents information through the newsletter / brochures etc to develop their skills in assisting their children to develop self discipline and self worth.
- Encourage parent help in all aspects of school life.

- Take a personal interest in each child through interaction with the children.
- Implement behaviour management programs within the classroom and school.
- Be alert and aware of the children for whom teachers are responsible, whenever they are on duty and at all times.
- Develop a comprehensive curriculum in line with *the Australian Curriculum* designed to cater for the different ways children learn.
- Develop fair and just assessment procedures.

<p>The School Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will develop effective school-community partnerships with welfare organisations outside school which can be of assistance to those students and families in need. ● Will be responsible for developing appropriate and relevant policies to assist in the implementation of this <i>Pastoral Care Policy</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop and implement a <i>Positive Behaviour Policy and Procedures</i> which will be regularly reviewed and evaluated. ● Develop and implement a <i>Safe at School Policy and Procedures</i> which will be regularly reviewed and evaluated. ● Develop and implement a <i>Serious Offences Policy</i> which will be regularly reviewed and evaluated. ● Develop an <i>Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Procedures</i> that will be regularly reviewed and evaluated.
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Reflective Materials

Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools. (2008) CECV Policy 1.14

Pastoral Care Policy Diocese of Ballarat.

School Vision and Mission Statements.

VRQA	
Child Safe Standards	
Drafted:	Sep 2008
Ratified:	Oct 2008
Reviewed:	Oct 2019