PASTORAL CARE

VALUES: Welcome, Community, Hospitality

Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the Kingdom of God belongs to these. (Matthew 19:14)

The Parable of the Good Samaritan, told in response to the question, ‘who is my neighbour?’ Jesus replied after telling the Parable, ‘you go and do the same.’ (Luke 10:25-37)

DEFINITION
Pastoral care is the integration of the academic, social and religious dimensions of a school’s energy so that an atmosphere of care prevails within the school community. Pastoral care is the summation of the school’s endeavour to educate. It is integral to the daily life of school and cannot be restricted to a particular program or curriculum.

POLICY:
St. Clare’s School recognises that Pastoral Care in the school community is essential for all members of the school community to achieve Christ’s vision of the human person. Therefore, the ethos and environment of the school should be thoroughly infused with the Catholic vision of Pastoral Care. As an umbrella policy of all other policies, Pastoral Care is about encouraging and promoting a positive school environment that supports staff, students and families in all school routines, curriculum and school activities.

GUIDELINES:
As a Catholic School, the Religious Dimension of the school is what differentiates it from other schools. The school’s role is to spread the Good News of Jesus and as such, provides a strong basis through which Pastoral Care is developed and achieved. Opportunities are provided for all members of the school community (staff, students, and families) to grow in faith and knowledge in order to achieve Christ’s vision of the human person.
Every effort is made to provide students with a physically and emotionally safe learning environment where children are encouraged to express themselves appropriately, listen to one another and respect differences.

Students are encouraged to contribute to the Pastoral Care of the school community through the way they interact with staff and one another and with all visitors to the school, resolve conflicts, welcome members new to the community and show respect for property and the school grounds.

School community members are encouraged to integrate in the life of the parish (altar serving, school Masses and Sacramental programmes). We welcome a supportive relationship with our parish priest who contributes to the life of the school both formally and informally.

STRATEGIES:

- Peer Support Program – creation of buddy classes
- Effective Learning Strategies – teaching students about learner dispositions
- School Counsellor
- Pastoral Care Service provided by the Cairns Diocese – emotional and spiritual support of parents and students
- Retreats and Camps – provide opportunities for children to develop closer relationships with each other and with staff through less formal contact, social activities and team building.
- Religious Education Guidelines – using the mandated curriculum
- Assemblies
- GETO's at assembly – celebrating the goodness in our students
- SEL Program/Circles
- Wellbeing Week – a whole school focus
- Staff Professional Development – including retreats (facilitating personal faith) and induction programs
- Class prayer and staff prayer
- School liturgies and masses
- Parent information evenings and interviews – enabling relationships building
- P & F Social functions
- Newsletters – a vital link between school and home
- Special school celebrations – an invaluable means of bringing the school community together for a common purpose
- School website, skoolbag app and facebook page – provides families with current information and links and also includes celebrations
- School LED sign – a reminder to all about upcoming events

APPROVED: 2018 REVIEW: 2021