VALUES: Love, Care, Justice, Respect, Truth, Trust, Compassion, Concern, Tolerance, Understanding, Patience.

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)

PREAMBLE

Pastoral care can assist students to develop positive self-esteem, healthy risk taking, goal setting and negotiation, enhancing protective factors contributing to their resiliency as well as developing a sense of social cohesion that together can improve their overall health and wellbeing.

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.
Children are encouraged to recognise that mistakes (including academic and behavioural) are part of the growth and learning process.
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.

AIMS:
Foster and develop quality relationships between staff, students, parents, parish and the wider community based on Christian values.
Build and maintain a school community driven by Christian values that provides supportive and caring networks.
Provide effective, consistent and clear behaviour outcomes based on reconciliation and problem solving.
Encourage all school community members (staff, students and families) to contribute to the Pastoral dimension appropriately, according to their roles and responsibilities.
Create an environment of care where each individual is affirmed and experiences a sense of belonging.