



PASTORAL CARE GUIDELINES

RATIONALE

At Padbury Catholic Primary School, pastoral care is at the centre of all that we do and in essence is the living Christ in our community. In turn, it is the living example of the evangelical ministry of the Church. The life of every human person is seen to have a God given value and meaning where the Gospel spirit of freedom and love is a lived experience.

Parents are the first educators of their children. The role of the Catholic school is to assist parents in the Catholic education of their children. We believe that all students have the right to a safe and secure environment in which they are able to achieve their personal best. Every effort is made to appreciate the special pastoral circumstances of members and to enhance the dignity of each person in our Catholic faith community.

Pastoral care is concerned with maximising learning and growth and developing the beliefs, values, attitudes, knowledge, skills and practices to enable all to become inner-directed, contributing members of God's creation.

At the implicit level every aspect of the school's educational ministry is infused by the Church's understanding of what it means to be a community of believers: to act and love as Jesus did.

At the explicit level programs, structures and specialist personnel work together to meet the needs of each member and group in the school community to develop his/her potential, to be nurtured, to be healed and to be educated.

As Christ sought justice for all, we strive to model ourselves on his example by fulfilling our school motto to 'Love One Another'.

PASTORAL CARE OF STUDENTS

In order to develop a sense of self and others, students are given various opportunities and experiences which include:

- A religious education program which aims at educating students in the Catholic faith through participation in liturgy, sacramental life, prayer, instruction and example.
- A Buddy System: students from younger classes are buddied with an older class in order to encourage empathy between students.
- Merit Awards: are given out weekly at school assemblies to recognise achievements.
- A gifted and talented program offers students the opportunity to be challenged



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and extended in their learning journey.

- Specialist staff are available as a support network and to give students the opportunity to learn a variety of skills which further enhance learning.
- Individual programs including Reading Recovery are offered to students with special needs.
- Learning opportunities are marked by the inservicing of staff and the implementation of these programs into the classroom including RAISe which is a whole school approach to further raising the literacy level of students.
- LAP (Learning Assistance Program): is a one-to-one volunteer programme that assists students who would benefit from quality time with an adult.
- The Early Literacy Programme: operates in Pre Primary, Year One and Year Two. Parent volunteers work with a small group of students to enhance literacy skills. This program ensures all students are given a firm foundation for future literacy success.
- RAINBOWS is available for students who need support through a time of grief and loss.
- Asthma Friendly School: staff are regularly inserviced in the best practice for treating students who suffer from asthma.
- Padbury Catholic Primary School is a 'Sun Smart' school that encourages students to be aware of the health issues related to exposure to the sun. The school has a policy of 'No Hat No Outside Play'.
- Students with disabilities are welcomed into our school and this gives other students the opportunity to have empathy with the limitations of some disabilities and a greater respect for the gifts with which they have been blessed.
- Affirmation and rewarding of appropriate behaviour: a white card system is in place where student behaviour is rewarded with a white ticket which is signed by a staff member and parent/guardian and returned to the office to be entered in a raffle draw which takes place on Fridays at assembly.
- Reward systems: teachers use a variety of reward systems in the classroom to encourage and affirm positive behaviour in students, remembering that intrinsic and extrinsic motivation are of equal importance.
- Class teachers try to be aware of the needs of individual students within the class and respond to these needs with the appropriate resources.
- The Staff at Padbury Catholic Primary School strive to create a caring and positive environment within the classroom so that the students feel safe and happy.
- As a part of the curriculum, a range of experiences are offered to cater for the diverse gifts of students including a gifted and talented programme, a learning assistance programme, student ministries, athletics carnivals, swimming carnivals and cross country.

PASTORAL CARE OF STAFF

- Specialist staff are available for consultation at both a professional and personal level.



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- A committee of staff members helps to coordinate social functions to give staff the opportunity to meet in less formal situations.
- During winter, staff are given the opportunity to be involved in a 'soup' roster.
- Special occasions are marked with gifts, lunches, morning and afternoon teas as appropriate.
- Opportunities are provided for faith, personal and professional development.

PASTORAL CARE OF PARENTS & FAMILIES

- Specialist staff are available for consultation.
- The Parents & Friends Association offers opportunities for members of our community to be involved in educative, social and fund-raising functions.
- Parents and families are invited and welcomed into classrooms to be a part of their child/children's education in the form of excursions and as a helper for a variety of classroom activities.
- Special functions are celebrated with invitations extended to family members. These include Mother's Day, Father's Day and liturgical celebrations for special occasions.
- Padbury Care Givers is a group that provides short term assistance to families in need.

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Creation is a gift for all time and we are commissioned to use the earth's resources wisely for the benefit of those who walk this land both now and in the future.

- Padbury Catholic Primary School is a 'Water Wise' school that takes the time to educate and introduce measures to conserve water as a valuable resource.
- Padbury Catholic Primary School is a 'Smoke Free' environment.
- Opportunities are provided to maximise the use of the bushland bordering the school.

In keeping with our Catholic school aims of educating the whole child, our Pastoral Care and discipline policies are embedded in the 'Safe Schools Framework'.