



Pastoral care is an individual and community response to Jesus' call to 'love one another as I have loved you' (John 13:34).

POLICY STATEMENT:

The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: this is why the promotion of the human person is the goal for all members of the Catholic school community.

RATIONALE:

Pastoral care is based on a deep respect for the dignity and uniqueness of the individual person who is made in the image of God.

The ministry of Jesus is announced in Luke's gospel as bringing good news to the poor, liberating those who are captive, recovering the sight of those who are blind and setting free those who are oppressed. Catholic schools share in the ministry of Jesus when they are characterised by the same liberating and life-giving characteristics.

These characteristics find expression in school structures, policies, programs and services that build inclusive, supportive and caring relationships within the Catholic school community. When the Catholic school is faithful to the call of the Gospel, justice, compassion and reconciliation are evident throughout the life of the school.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Pastoral Care is lived out in all dimensions of Catholic school life.

Foundational to all relationships within the community of the Catholic school is a commitment to a shared vision, inclusive processes and the common good.

Each member of a Catholic school community is responsible for living out pastoral care in his or her everyday actions.

All members of Catholic school communities are challenged to commit themselves to Pastoral Care by:

- recognising the dignity of the human person made in the image of God.
- contributing to a welcoming and inclusive community.
- recognising that quality relationships are pivotal.
- being compassionate and forgiving.
- fostering networks of care.
- respecting and supporting diverse family structures.
- valuing different cultural perspectives and traditions.
- providing contemporary teaching and learning.
- providing opportunities for the development of Pastoral Care.
- Demonstrating a commitment to organisational structures that benefit individuals and the school community.

Signed:

Chairperson School Board: *Steve Atkinson*October 2023

Principal: *Don DePalma*October 2023

Policy Review Date: October 2023

Next Review Date: October 2026