Pastoral Care Policy

Rationale

We believe that the Pastoral Care of Our Lady Help of Christians School should enhance students’ well being 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 of 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.

Scriptural Context

“I have come that you may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10)

Definition

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

Policy Statement

At Our Lady Help of Christians 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.
### POLICY GUIDELINES:

#### OUR PASTORAL CARE:

- Promotes a high quality of interpersonal relationships among teachers, students, parents, canonical administrator and ancillary staff.
- 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.

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### GUIDELINE INDICATORS:

#### To implement our Pastoral Care Policy we will:

- Liaise with parents through information evenings, newsletters, communication books.
- Welcome parents into the school.
- Follow up incidents which occur in classroom/playground and inform parents of same.
- Hold school assemblies to acknowledge and reward positive behaviour.
- Utilise Bully Prevention strategies, where appropriate, when dealing with behaviour/bullying issues.

- Offer students a variety of programs that encourage and promote experiences in positive life skills. eg. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Program, Bully Prevention Program, Positive Behaviours Blitzes.
- Develop respect for and acceptance and understanding of different cultures through different topics studied in the curriculum.

- Offer parents programs to develop their skills in assisting their children to develop self discipline and self worth.
- Encourage parent help in all aspects of school life.
- Provide families with support where needed.
- Provide families with information...
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.

The School Community:
● Will develop effective school-community partnerships with welfare organizations 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 Pastoral Care Policy.

REFLECTIVE MATERIALS:
● Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools. (2008) CECV Policy 1.14
● Pastoral Care Policy Diocese of Ballarat.
\begin{itemize}
\item School Vision and Mission statements.
\item KidsMatter
\item Bully Prevention in Positive behaviour Support. Scott Ross Ph.D, Rob Horner Ph.D and Bianna Stiller Ph.D
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**Evaluation:**
This policy will be reviewed as part of the 4 year school improvement cycle framework.