

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

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Approved by	St Mary Star of the Sea College Board		
Author	Frank Pitt, Principal		
Responsible body	College Board College staff		
Supporting documents, procedures and policies	College staff handbook Bullying and Harassment Policy Staff and Student Codes of Conduct Good Samaritan Pastoral Care Framework		
Reference and legislation	Disability Discrimination Act 1992 Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Act 1986 National Safe Schools Framework		
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1. PURPOSE OF POLICY

The purpose of the policy is to give meaning and life to the term “pastoral care” as it is linked to the Gospel and its values and the educational philosophy of the Good Samaritan Sisters, Good Samaritan Education and the Benedictine tradition.

Through the Rule of St Benedict, as interpreted by the Good Samaritan Sisters, the core of pastoral care is the development of the whole person, enabling them to feel safe and valued in an environment that demonstrates charity, compassion, acceptance, justice and forgiveness. A strong focus of this policy is the engendering of right and respectful relationships among all members of the College community and with the wider community.

Since we are formed in the image and likeness of God, pastoral care in the College must demonstrate the way forward in developing relationships between students, staff and families that demonstrate trust, cooperation and a belief in the value and dignity of each person.

2. DEFINITIONS

Pastoral care	Policies and procedures demonstrated by the College that are based upon the philosophy of the Good Samaritan Sisters under the Rule of St Benedict and directed towards the development of the whole person.
Students	A student is any individual who is enrolled at the College and who participates in the educational and extra-curricular life of the College.
Wellbeing	This encompasses physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual welfare.

3. APPLICATION AND SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff, teaching and non-teaching, permanent, temporary or casual, as well as to students, parents, visitors and volunteers.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

At St Mary Star of the Sea College, we provide an environment where pastoral care:

- has the individual as its focus
- is concerned with the wellbeing and care of both the individual and particular student groups
- permeates all aspects of College life
- is exercised by all members of the College community
- promotes respect for the rights of every person, and
- is based upon Gospel values and the Good Samaritan tradition.

The College will take the necessary steps to assist with building and sustaining human relationships which are modelled on Christ and have an outcome of self worth and acceptance. This is done in part through the implementation of quality pastoral care programs which are supported by quality learning and teaching in an environment where individuals are valued.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION

With the assistance of the Dean of Pastoral Care, the College administration will lead and support the staff to implement the Pastoral Care Policy as it applies to students, parents and staff.

Further, the administration will assist the Dean of Pastoral Care to put in place appropriate structures and procedures to enable teachers and others to work towards the total wellbeing of individual members of the College community.

6. RESPONSIBILITY OF EMPLOYEES

All employees are required to work with the Dean of Pastoral Care to implement the Pastoral Care Policy. They are responsible for taking all the necessary steps to ensure that an environment is developed and maintained that allows for the personal growth of individual members of the College community and for the development of trust between students, teachers and parents/carers. We are a community that has right and respectful relationships as a key value.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

The responsibility of each student is to cooperate with and actively support structures that contribute to the long-term development of each student's potential.

As well as striving for personal growth, students should practise Gospel values which promote care, respect, cooperation and acceptance of cultural diversities.

Within a Catholic college having Mary as the model, students should strive not only for their personal growth but also to help others develop an appreciation of their personal worth. This is done by ensuring charity, compassion and justice are an integral part of College life.

As a Good Samaritan/Benedictine College, we aim to ensure that "the strong have something to strive for and the weak nothing to run from". This is a responsibility of the community and a value to be developed in students.

VERSION CONTROL AND CHANGE HISTORY

Version control	Date effective	Approved by	Amendment
1.0	July 2009	Board	Initial adoption
2.0	July 2012	Board	Reviewed and reformatted
3.0	September 2014	Board	Reviewed