

Mater Dei Catholic Primary School

A faith filled community that nurtures and inspires.

(Mater Dei Catholic Primary Vision and Mission statement 2014)

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

The implementation of the Pastoral Care Policy reflects the school's commitment to the Diocesan Vision and Mission and the Vision and Mission statements of the school.

POLICY

Inspired by the Gospel and the Bishop of Wagga Wagga's Mandate the dignity of each person is at the heart of the pastoral care provided at Mater Dei Catholic Primary School.

At Mater Dei, pastoral care is the responsibility of clergy, staff, students and families. We value our community and the spiritual, social and emotional wellbeing of all members of our school community is at the heart of our priorities.

Pastoral Care will be expressed through:

- The establishment of a school community that is dedicated to the total care of students, staff and families within the community.
- The provision of experiences and structures that provide for the integrated spiritual and human growth of students.
- Providing a safe, caring environment in which students are nurtured as they learn
- The commitment to recognise and develop each person as unique in the context of society and our Church.
- The provision of a comprehensive quality education for all students taking into account their age, background, ability and interests.
- The establishment of an effective care network.
- The witness of Christ's love for humanity.

AIMS

- To develop quality relationships based on trust, honesty and integrity
- To provide satisfying learning experiences in collegial learning communities
- To establish an effective care network for all stakeholders in our community
- To provide opportunity for students to and structures which enable the integrated growth of students.

IMPLEMENTATION

At Mater Dei, pastoral care will be an expression of the service that we provide to all the members of the school community. Effective pastoral care is achieved through the total school curriculum and the way it is delivered. Its practice is the foundation for all aspects of school life and is particularly expressed in the following policies:

- Religious Education
- HSIE
- PD/H/PE
- Supervision Policy
- Aboriginal Education
- Anti - Bullying Policy
- Expected Behaviour Policy

Care and respect will be demonstrated between staff and students in their daily interactions. In the event of concern arising about the welfare of any particular child, family or staff member, the matter should be brought immediately to the attention of the Principal or Pastoral Care Co-ordinator. After discussion and discernment with all parties involved, a support programme is to be organised to suit the particular circumstances of the child, family or staff member involved. Community Agencies will be accessed as needed to support staff, students, parents and caregivers.

Some examples of pastoral care in action at Mater Dei include;

- Masses/Liturgies- these may be class or whole school
- Meeting of the Wellbeing Committee – The Principal, Pastoral Care Coordinator, School Counsellor and Learning Support Coordinator, meet fortnightly to share concerns around the wellbeing of individual students. A plan is created to address these concerns.
- Buddy System: This involves new kinder classes and Year 5 classes. Each new Kindergarten child has a buddy from Year 5 who watches over the child when they start school and participates in activities with them.
- Class Parent Representatives – welcoming new families – organise social events, support grieving families or those experiencing hardship
- Assemblies – birthdays, class items, recognition of student achievement through Merit Awards and You Can Do It Awards
- Social functions – whole school activities – new family welcome evening
- Prayer opportunities / Prayer intentions
- Staff acknowledge and celebrate birthdays and other special occasions together
- Access to School counsellor
- Social Skills Group
- Provision of extra curricular program – Drama – Tournament of Minds – chess - Sport Opportunities
- Visitations and support from Parish Priest
- Regular communication e.g. phone calls, newsletter, informal and formal teacher and parent meetings

- Behaviour management plans
- Access to support agencies for school community members eg Centacare
- Anti-Bullying units – peer monitoring/mediation. We adopt and implement CSO Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Student Council – all children from Year 2-6 have the opportunity to be elected as their class representative
- Playground options
- Clear understanding of choices/consequences - children knowing language
- Making Jesus Real

OUTCOMES:

- **Students will:**
- develop their skills, knowledge and strategies to deal with personal problems by establishing an effective network
- learn about the reasons for and how to establish an effective network and will be given guidelines to enable them to do this
- be taught about respect and care for self and others

- **Staff will:**
- work to implement the above guidelines
- live by example and use a range of strategies to ensure each student establishes an effective network.
- make sure students are provided with the means and strategies to enable them to establish positive relationships
- ensure students understand the necessity and value behind ‘respect and care for self and others’.
- follow the school anti-bullying guidelines

- **The community will be:**
- Provided with the appropriate information in newsletters about the guidelines observed at Mater Dei as well as the importance of their effective home –school relationships
- They will be encouraged to support the guidelines outlined in this policy.

EVALUATION

Reviewed by staff in 2014

To be reviewed by staff in 2016