



PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Status	CURRENT
Classification	Operational / Mission and Wellbeing
Established	2008
Last Review	2018
Next Review	2021
Responsibility	Deputy Principal – Mission and Wellbeing

DEFINITION

Pastoral Care is the unifying focus for the spiritual, academic, social and emotional aspects of school life.

Pastoral Care is the College's expression of its concern for the development and the sustainment of the whole person. In a school it is expressed through:

- the development and sustainment of quality relationships
- the provision of satisfying learning experiences
- the establishment of an effective care network

RATIONALE

The Context of Pastoral Care of Students in a Catholic School

Catholic schools are founded on the person of Jesus Christ. Consequently, Catholic Schools must be guided by Gospel values and share the evangelising mission of the Church. Catholic schools give witness to this by their actions and by placing faith development in the context of everyday life and culture. To adopt this vision as a way of approaching life requires an acknowledgement of the Gospel truth that we are all called to "*have life and have it to the full*" (John 10:10). As a result, Catholic schools have a responsibility to develop the whole person.

This provides the framework for the consideration of Pastoral Care in Catholic schools. It very clearly places Christian ministry in the context of *Relationships*: relationship with God, relationship with others and relationship with self. Each person is called to actively promote the well-being of all members of the school community.



PRACTICES

Pastoral Care practices at St Augustine's College – Sydney will:

- respect the basic dignity of the human person
- provide witness to Gospel values as a means of living out daily life
- adopt a holistic approach which develops the full potential of the individual by integrating spiritual values with life
- include care structures which identify and meet special needs of individuals in crisis
- nurture, liberate, empower and promote self-discipline
- recognise affirmation of students as an essential part of Pastoral Care
- enhance school climate and build community through shared responsibility and the relationships which exist amongst parents, teachers and students
- recognise just discipline practices of the school
- be pro-active and reactive to needs
- promote an environment of safety for all members of the school community

As an Augustinian school, St Augustine's College places a great emphasis on providing both experiences and an environment whereby a strong sense of community is fostered.

Recent research has highlighted the importance for schools to encourage a strong sense of connectedness amongst students, staff and families. St Augustine's has long recognised this need and has developed a strong reputation for supporting students as they develop into young men by encouraging the development of meaningful relationships.

Parent Collaboration

At St Augustine's College we strive to work with parents in educating their sons. Parents should be informed if their son is not measuring up to our expectations and teachers will invite parents to work with them in helping them deal with misbehaviour or unsatisfactory progress.

It is College policy that parents must be informed about unsatisfactory progress or behaviour. This section outlines procedures which enhance communication between the College and home. ***The semester report must not be the first time that parents are told about unsatisfactory progress or behaviour.***

We encourage teachers to contact parents and discuss any matters pertaining to their sons. Staff are encouraged to maintain records of communications with parents.

If we request parents to come to the College to discuss a problem, we ask that they come willingly and help us to help their son. We urge parents to come and stand with us in an effort to improve matters.

Staff Responsible

While all staff have pastoral care responsibilities to all students, Deputy Principals have over-arching responsibility for the discipline and pastoral care of students. In addition, House/Student Formation Leaders take special responsibility for the administration and welfare of the students in their respective House/Years.



Student Welfare

There are a number of staff that work together to ensure optimum wellbeing of the St Augustine's Community.

Members include Deputy Principals, College Psychologists, HFL/SFL and Leader of Student Wellbeing, and are chosen to have direct contact with families. Where appropriate the College Chaplain and other staff member(s) may be involved.

In Years 5 & 6, Core Teachers are primarily responsible for the pastoral support of students, in conjunction with the Dean of Primary.

The Role of the College Psychologists

The College Psychologists are responsible for the provision of Psychological Services to the student body and their families where appropriate. The Psychologist primarily serves students identifying with an emotional, psychological or intellectual issue that could potentially diminish their wellbeing.

Referral Procedure for the College Psychologists

1. All referrals must be submitted in writing to the College Psychologists. Emailing is the preferred mode of referral. Acknowledgement and action plan will be forwarded as soon as feasible.
2. Referrals of an urgent nature may be given verbally. However, the referral paperwork must be completed and attached to the student's file as soon as possible.
3. When a referral is lodged the staff member is required to inform the appropriate HFL/SFL.
4. Feedback (where appropriate) is provided by the College Psychologist either verbally or in a written form.

