



Mater Christi Catholic Primary School **Pastoral Care Policy**

Original policy
Reviewed: 2010
Reviewed: 2014
Due for Review: 2016

Rationale:

At Mater Christi we believe that Pastoral Care is actively living our Christian faith. Pastoral Care is an integral part of our school philosophy, which encourages students, parents and teachers to develop to their fullest potential.

The Pastoral Care Policy at Mater Christi reflects every aspect of our school community and its relationships. It is implicit in our understanding of faith and what it means to our diverse community. Our Pastoral care continues in the tradition established by Blessed Mary MacKillop and is reflected in our school motto "*Charity in our Hearts*".

Pastoral Care is reflected by the care and concern given to the needs of individuals, the building of quality relationships among the whole school community based on respect, acceptance, trust and hope. It is also reflected in learning experiences, which aim to develop self-discipline, responsibility and leadership among our students. Finally, our Pastoral Care aims to build an effective support system for staff, students and parents, which emphasises crisis support, discipline procedures and effective communication networks.

Definition:

Pastoral Care in Catholic schools means enhancing the dignity of each person within a catholic faith community. It is concerned with maximising learning and growth and developing the beliefs, attitudes, knowledge, skills and practices to enable all to become inner-directed, contributing members of God's creation. (2000: The Framework for the Development of Pastoral Care in Catholic Schools)

In brief, Pastoral Care is an active dimension of life at Mater Christi, whereby each member feels known, respected, cared for and that they contribute and they make a difference.

Principles:

The function of Pastoral Care in our Catholic School is to:

1. Provide an environment, a curriculum and a set of practices based on the Gospels;
2. Enable students to attain the beliefs, values, attitudes, knowledge, skills and practices, which will enable them to achieve Christ's vision of the human person;
3. Ensure that the care and development of each person takes place within the Catholic faith community;
4. Be concerned with the nurturing and well-being of all who impact on the school community.

Elements:

The elements of Pastoral Care at Mater Christi include ***environment, policy and practice and curriculum.***

Environment

Examples of the aspects pertaining to the environmental element are as follows:

Religious Education

- Prayer, liturgy, celebration and participation in the Sacraments;
- Reflection of values of the Sacraments in school policies and practices e.g. acceptance and forgiveness;
- Traditions of the Church (liturgical calendar, feast days etc.)
- Traditions of Mater Christi (Mater Christi Week).

Community

- Interpersonal relationships within the school community, for example, staff meetings, parent teacher interviews, school assemblies, administration, and cluster and curriculum meetings.
- Making Jesus Real
- Relationships with parish priest, religious orders, parent community and past students;
- Reflection of the school's mission statement and motto, Aussie nominations;
- Relevant cultural experiences, for example, NAIDOC Week.
- Awareness and support of those who are alienated, for example inclusion of those who are not able to afford school fees and offering programs such as "Seasons for Growth" for students needing emotional support.

Administration

- The leadership team promotes a fair and supportive environment.
- Support for students as they move from one stage of schooling to another.
- Pastoral care of staff, through the development of staff, prayer and in-services and liturgies.
- All curriculum and policy development involves consultation, participation and ownership of each document; all school staff are inducted on the school's Pastoral Care Policy and practices.

Policy and Practice

All school policies that are developed at Mater Christi reflect our principles of Pastoral Care.

Student

- Student management
- Duty of care

School Community

- Reporting and Communication
- Parental Involvement

Administration

- Allocation of resources
- Enrolment policies
- Uniform requirements and standards
- Crisis management

School Personnel

- Employment, professional and faith development
- Professional development of teachers in pastoral care

Curriculum

Curriculum is the total, school directed experience of students during schooling.

The Mater Christi curriculum caters for a variety of student needs and abilities in a Catholic school setting:

The following aspects of the Curriculum are considered:

- Consideration of the needs of all students. For example; buddy system and peer tutoring
- Provision of adaptable and flexible curriculum involving the use of the Curriculum Framework
- Appropriate methods of assessment, evaluation and reporting
- A curriculum informed by the Principles of Catholic Social justice teachings
- Acquisition of concepts, the learning of facts, development of life skills, examination of attitudes and an exploration of their beliefs and values
- Incorporation of environmental issues as our school is situated in natural parkland.

| Pastoral Care at Mater Christi | | |
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| Students | Staff | Parents |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modified curriculum • Acknowledgement of birthdays • Aussie of the Month • Star of the Day/Week • Achievements acknowledged at assemblies or through the newsletter • Distribution of certificates • Graduation ceremonies • Rainbows Program • SRC • Classroom Incentives • Discipline Policy • Crisis Care Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Prayer • Staff Masses • Staff celebrations e.g. birthdays, achievements etc • Social club events • Provision of Professional development opportunities • Counselling Services • Availability of services of our school psychologist and Parish Priest. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning teas • Invitations to liturgies and assemblies • Parent nights • Reflections in newsletter • Updates in newsletter • P & F Social events • Grandparents' Lunch |