

St Mary's Pastoral Care Policy

Introduction

St Mary's School values the uniqueness and identity of each member of our school community. The openness and welcoming nature of the staff at St Mary's encourages ongoing communication between staff and families in a trusting and cooperative way. We create a supportive learning environment, which enhances a sense of belonging and demonstrates a concern for the well being of the individual. Our Pastoral Care Policy is not problem centred, but is characterized by a sense of nurturing and celebration of life.

Rationale

Quality interpersonal relationships between staff, students and parents are a responsibility shared by everyone.

Students are encouraged to develop trust and friendship amongst their peers.

Programmes to support this are the Make Jesus Real, Buddy System, Restorative Justice and Programme Achieve.

Parents are involved in the life of the school in the following ways:- grounds maintenance, classroom volunteers, Library support group, Art and Drama projects, Parents and Friends activities.

Teachers are encouraged to establish open communication with parents.

Self Discipline and Responsibility.

From our School Mission Statement, we have developed Charters of Responsibility for teachers, parents and students.

The fostering of self discipline helps students to recognize their rights and responsibilities.

Our Religious Education Programme fosters the teachings of Jesus Christ throughout the daily lives of all members of the school community.

Students are involved in the formulation of class expectations at the beginning of the school year.

We begin each week with a School Assembly to introduce the focus of our MJR Programme for the week.

A Values programme is taught across the school to foster in the children necessary values for a caring, supportive school community.

Our Year 6 children participate in a programme of leadership formation in preparation for their roles as school leaders in Year 7.

St Mary's staff have developed a Behaviour Management Policy. This acknowledges the rights of all individuals and the associated responsibility of functioning within our school community.

Pastoral Care Programmes

Our Pastoral Care Programmes are attentive to the changing needs of students and also to the unique needs of the families of our students.

The following programmes are currently in place at St Mary's.

- Programme Achieve
- Values Programme
- Make Jesus ReaL

- Aware- Anti-bullying Programme
- Buddy System

Learning and Teaching

Staff continually work to ensure that curriculum provision is of the highest quality, socially responsible and responsive to students needs.

The following statements, policies and guidelines have been developed.

- Mission Statement
- Charter for Parents, Teachers and Students
- Enrolment Policy
- Whole School Programme
- Religious Education Programme
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Reporting and Assessment Policy
- Homework Policy
- Uniform Policy
- Sunsafe Policy
- Communication Policy

School- Family Relationships

A relationship of trust, cooperation and partnership between the school personnel and families is essential.

We continually look at ways of involving, informing and supporting parents.

Current practices to achieve this are:

- Reporting Processes
- Parent Information Nights
- Celebration of Learning Evening
- Parents and Friends Association
- Care and Concern Group
- Music and Drama Performances
- Curriculum Areas Information Sessions
- Guidance Counsellor
- School Pastoral Care Worker
- Behaviour Management Communications
- Brisbane Catholic Education professional support services
- Special programme development meetings for children with special needs