



## ST COLUMBA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL BERRIGAN STUDENT WELFARE/PASTORAL CARE POLICY

The St Columba's Community believes that Pastoral Care is a life-giving focus that is a response to each person's needs of self esteem, positive discipline, effective learning, purpose in life, moral and personal development, experienced within the ethos of a gospel-based community.

"Pastoral Care is central to the ethos and identity of a Catholic school and it is essential that pastoral care for students be given a high priority. The role of schools as an educational institution is to encourage excellence, the pursuit of learning and the care of all individual students. The primary purpose of schools is to promote the full physical, social, intellectual, emotional and spiritual development of the students.

Pastoral care is based on a deep respect for the dignity and uniqueness of the individual person as we are all made in the image of God (*Genesis 1:27*). The Catholic School, by providing a strong sense of wellbeing, belonging and security, that affirms students in their dignity and worth, assists students to achieve their full potential."

*p.6 "Guidelines for Pastoral Care in Catholic Schools"*

### BELIEF STATEMENT

We believe that **PASTORAL CARE**

- is living the Gospel message "Love one another" Jn 13.34
- creates and fosters an environment where Christ-like values permeate the school community
- is a responsibility for all – staff, pupils, parents, Parish Priest and the wider community
- is the concern that we, as a school and as individuals, have for the development of the person to reach their full potential – social, emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical
- is aimed at acknowledging and responding to each individual in the school community
- is congruent with clear, consistent and just discipline practices
- should always be congruent with a basic value of respect for the dignity of the individual

As a Learning Community, we aim to develop self responsibility and self discipline within each individual.

## INTEGRATION & PRACTICE ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

To enhance our beliefs, school practices may include:-

- Masses/Liturgies.
- Assemblies – birthdays, class items, recognition of student achievement via merit awards
- Social functions – whole school activities – new family nights
- Staff acknowledge and celebrate birthdays and other special occasions together
- Provision of extra curricular program – Drama – Sport Opportunities
- Celebrations with families
- Visitations and support from Parish Priest
- Merit Awards
- Prayer opportunities / Prayer intentions
- Norm setting and on-going review
- Leadership team – student & school executive
- Regular communication e.g. phone calls, newsletter, informal and formal teacher and parent meetings
- Behaviour management plans
- Relevant school & class programs
- Access to support agencies for school community members eg Centacare
- Bullying units – peer monitoring/mediation – why are people bullying/helping them – being able to discern when to seek help. We adopt and implement Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Health Program
- Playground options
- Teaching of Expected Behaviours e.g. entry into classroom
- Classroom/Playground norming
- School Counsellor
- Clear understanding of choices/consequences - children knowing language
- Consistent/Cyclical/Revisited
- Personal Safety – PD/H/PE
- Truthfulness creates opportunities for forgiving and growing
- Social Skills Group

### **PD/H/P.E.**

Scope and Sequence to be established across the grades to encompass many of these suggested programs

### **Awards**

Merit Awards given at assemblies to recognise positive behaviour and application by students

### **Support Services**

School Counsellor, Special Needs Consultant, IDLT

### **Access/Referral**

Support services from the CEDWW and other organisations can be accessed through collaboration with the classroom teacher, IDLT, principal and parents. It is the responsibility of individual class teachers and the IDLT to program and implement individual plans for students in consultation with parents and CEDWW support staff. e.g. behaviour plans, language classes

### **Student Welfare Meetings**

The staff of St. Columba's meet periodically with the Centacare Staff to discuss the wellbeing needs of the students of the school.

Revised in February 2020. To be reviewed in 2023.