

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

“To educate young people properly, we must love them; we must love them all equally. To love young people is to devote yourself completely to teaching them and to take all the means that a keen imagination can think of in order to form them in gospel in values.” **St Marcellin Champagnat**

RATIONALE

Pastoral Care at Red Bend Catholic College reflects the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and seeks to answer the call to discipleship, as exemplified by Mary. The practice which flow from this source, recreates a learning and teaching environment which is filled with faith and hope, is just and compassionate and is culturally inclusive of all who comprise the community.

This community is one in which:

- all members can engage in teaching and learning activities that respond to the emerging needs of young people and the future needs of society;
- all members abide by the principles of cooperation, enabling full participation in, and ownership of, this community;
- the spiritual, psychological and physical development of each individual is nurtured in a secure and supportive model of family;
- the cognitive and emotional intelligence of each individual is enhanced through practices, which promote the development of the whole person;
- partnerships are promoted, allowing each individual to know that he/she belongs, is connected to both a peer group and supportive adults, and is valued member of that community;
- In witnessing to Christ, all members are free to choose how they respond to the challenges of life. This community cherishes choices which support and develop the Christian ethos of the College.

PRINCIPLES

The Pastoral Care Policy embraces the following principles of:

- Growth in Christ
- Love for others
- Mutual Respect/Tolerance/Acceptance
- Concern/Compassion/Forgiveness/Reconciliation
- Trust/Truth/Honesty/Integrity
- A commitment to justice
- Responsibility

These principles form the basis for the living out of a pastoral spirit and ethos.

The Pastoral Care Policy at Red Bend Catholic College not only offers students opportunities to enhance their faith but also to develop Christ-like qualities that they can take with them into society when they leave school.

It aims to create an environment where there is love and mutual respect for others. Students and teachers will feel assured that their individuality, cultural background and religious beliefs are respected by all. Tolerance and acceptance are promoted.

The school environment is one where concern and compassion are displayed by all, giving everyone the opportunity to forgive, to be forgiven and to achieve full reconciliation with each other and God.

Students are encouraged to feel that the Red Bend Catholic College community is one which they can trust and rely on to be both supportive and just. All students are encouraged to participate in their own educational and spiritual development.

IMPLEMENTATION

The general curriculum at Red Bend Catholic College is designed to enhance young people's ability to develop positive relationships with others in the family, their social groups and the wider society. All members of the school community work together to encourage students' growth in personal responsibility and the building of supportive friendships.

The Pastoral Care Program supports such a curriculum model as it focuses on the:

- Various transition phases as the students move towards adulthood;
- Development of life skills that foster independence, resilience and coping strategies;
- Provision of opportunities for students to develop problem solving and assertiveness skills.
- Provision of regular instruction/participation during Pastoral Care time.
- Provision of access to counseling services at the discretion of the relevant House Coordinator/Deputy Principal.
- Provision of care that extends from the Day School into the Boarding environment.

The aim of the program is to assist students to make positive decisions about the issues they face in a range of areas so students may interact/communicate within their vertical class group.

EVALUATION

In order for the Red Bend Catholic College Pastoral Care Policy to be effective, it needs to remain relevant to the times and the needs of students and staff. Therefore, it must be evaluated regularly to ensure that it promotes a supportive, caring and nurturing environment that is inclusive of the entire school community.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Students are provided with the opportunity to formally develop leadership experience in the following ways:

- School Captains – Male/Female
- Boarding Captains – Male/Female
- House Captains x 4
- Liturgy Captains
- House Representative Council Membership (four per house)
- Sports team leaders
- All year 12 are expected to provide leadership with examples in dress, punctuality and study practices

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. A Pastoral Care Team with clearly defined role descriptions and appropriate time allocations be established. The team comprises the Deputy Principal and the House Coordinators.
2. The College allocates a specific time on the timetable for the provision of a Pastoral Care Program.
3. Some school-based research is to be conducted to identify the key issues for inclusion in a Pastoral Care Program. Consultation with key groups, including parents, should be undertaken.
4. A needs based Pastoral Care Program be developed and implemented. The content of such a program must be clearly identified as being outside the general curriculum, with no formal assessment.
5. The Pastoral Care Teachers work as part of a team developing and implementing the College Pastoral Care Program.
6. One criterion for the allocation of staff to a pastoral care group is that they retain the same group from year to year.
7. Ongoing professional development to be provided for the staff responsible for implementing the Pastoral Care Program in order to ensure that they are confident and competent to handle issues as they arise.
8. Ongoing professional development and resources be provided for all staff to ensure a cohesive approach to pastoral care.
9. The librarian is to be asked to work with the members of the Pastoral Care Team to provide the necessary resources.
10. Links be made with other students services, e.g., counselling service.
11. This Pastoral Care Policy is to be made available to all parents.
12. The Pastoral Care Policy is to be reviewed every three years.