

5.1 PASTORAL CARE POLICY

At St. Jude's, we are called to create a community which is centred on Christ, a community where we strive to provide for all the members of the community, a place where they are nurtured in all their uniqueness and difference.

In our Mission Statement, we state that -

We believe our mission is to provide quality education within a Catholic framework in partnership with parents and the wider community. We aim to do this through fostering positive relationships which promote social justice values and Pastoral care.

We believe that Christ is the centre of our school community and through him we strive together to provide an environment where children are nurtured, developed, and stimulated to attain their full potential.

We will provide appropriate curriculum policies and programmes which recognise and cater for the individual differences of each child.

Our Vision Statement states that our school should be a place where -

All its members are drawn together by faith in Jesus and His values are taught and nurtured. We are part of an active parish community, constantly renewing and celebrating our faith and living it out.

We recognise and develop the special gifts of the Holy Spirit in each other so that they are integrated in all that we are and all that we do. The uniqueness of each child is fostered to full potential, spiritually, physically, intellectually and emotionally in an atmosphere of love, care and respect.

Children develop an awareness of the presence of God in their lives, thus their belief, understanding and practice of their Catholic faith is nurtured.

Gospel values are seen through decisions, organisation, religious instruction and a caring staff who model these values. Visible signs of the Catholic faith are evident.

In joint partnership, parents and teachers form and implement policies and programmes that have as their focus the development of the whole child as an individual.

In consultation with the Parish Priest, Parish Education Board, Consultative Committee, Staff, Parents and CEO, decisions regarding staff deployment and budgeting enable full operation of these policies and programs.

Our physical environment continues to cater for our population growth and current philosophical approach to learning.

Nurtured in a cooperative environment, all members of our school community share responsibility for the learning and well-being of themselves and each other.

We will follow the attributes of St Jude and show mercy, peace and love.

This Pastoral Care Document -

Aims to develop a shared awareness of how we care pastorally for each other.

Challenges us to exemplify gospel values in our lives.

Communicates the responsibility of Pastoral Care for all members of the community.

Indicates to all our beliefs about Pastoral Care and how we act on these beliefs.

In order to create a pastorally caring environment we believe

THAT:

- Every member of our community is valued.
- In partnership with parents, we share the responsibility of learning about and living out our faith.
- We treat all people equally with the utmost respect and dignity.
- We value each person's uniqueness and celebrate their diversity.
- We encourage and support each person in their right to reach their full potential.
- Through support and encouragement of each others' potential, responsibilities and rights, we aim to achieve social justice.
- We must promote an attitude of care for each other, locally and globally, to alleviate the unacceptable suffering of others and always work to restore broken relationships.
- We provide an environment where the whole community feels safe, secure and supported, by being ready to listen and help.

- Recognisable avenues of communication need to exist between school and home.
- Self esteem and pride in who we are, is an integral part of our ongoing personal development.

In order to create a pastorally caring environment our staff endeavours to -

- share information
- value confidentiality.
- report regularly.
- develop lines of communication:
 - teacher/teacher.
 - teacher/children.
 - teacher/parent.
 - parent/teacher.
 - Parish Priest/staff.
- develop team planning.
- provide peer support.
- be available to others.
- provide courses for parent education and information.
- develop and encourage parental support in classroom.
- acknowledge skills and talents of all, including parents who work in classrooms.
- value social occasions and support these.
- use programs that develop self esteem.
- use programs that teach positive behaviours.
- use programs that allow children success and help them know they are worthwhile.
- group in a variety of ways.
- foster a sense of responsibility and corresponding rights.
- develop discipline policies that reflect our mission.
- provide a climate of care for all.
- acknowledge the responsibility for the safety and happiness of all.
- Celebrate Sacraments, liturgies, prayer

Written by staff and endorsed by Parish Education Board