



# St Thomas Aquinas Primary School, Norlane

## Pastoral Care

### Definition:

Pastoral Care at St. Thomas Aquinas Norlane is based on the values and person of Jesus Christ. It therefore seeks to promote an atmosphere where students and staff are able to learn in a safe, stable and happy environment. Of fundamental importance is the relationship of trust, cooperation and partnership between school staff, students and their families.

Pastoral care means looking after the whole person. We value and care for the spiritual, personal, social, physical, emotional and mental health of each member of our school community.

Pastoral Care permeates all policies and procedures within our school community. We follow the CEM Pastoral Care Document 1:19.

### Beliefs:

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School provides an educational environment that nurtures, encourages and challenges all children to achieve their full potential. We believe that each person is created in the image and likeness of God. (Genesis 1:27)

Our Pastoral Care policy provides a framework in which students, staff and parents are aware of the expectations, responsibilities, consequences and support the structures in place to ensure all members of the school community are treated with equality, respect and fairness.

At St Thomas Aquinas we believe that Pastoral Care in the school draws its expression and strength from the life of Jesus. Jesus' life was an expression of the values of love, compassion, reconciliation and justice. Because we believe this, and have our history based on the Mercy Tradition, we will teach the Mercy values that are an important aspect of leading a full and happy Christian life.

This community approach to promoting and enhancing wellbeing provides a safe, secure, supportive environment for each member of our school community.

Our pastoral care is exemplified by:

- Quality teaching and learning
- Providing loving, caring and secure environments in the school community
- Recognise the individuality and dignity of each student
- Foster life-giving relationships within the school community
- Good discipline modelled on Restorative Practices and Positive Behaviour
- High expectations of student performance

*Compassion*

*Respect*

*Service*

*Justice*



### **Aims:**

- To create a school environment where there is ongoing formation of faith, values, social and emotional learning, personal and interpersonal skills, self discipline and responsibility.
- To integrate pastoral care into all aspects of the daily life of our school.
- To create a school environment where the rights of all are preserved and respected at all times.
- To assist our children to become responsible members of our society through the development of self esteem, self discipline, empathy and respect for others.

### **Implementation:**

Because we value pastoral care in our school we have the following initiatives that respond to the changing needs and individual needs of our students.

A range of school practices and policies that reflect pastoral care are:

- Our Vision and Mission Statements
- Religious Education Policy.
- Mercy Values
- Wellbeing:
  - Students and staff
  - Peer Support Programs - Buddies
  - School Counsellor
  - Student Leadership
  - Assemblies, Awards and celebrations
  - Breakfast program
- Student Management
  - Restorative Practice
  - Positive Behaviour Model
- Victorian Curriculum - Social and Emotional Learning
- National Safe School Framework
  - Values Education
  - Drug Education
  - Anti- Bullying policy
  - Keeping Children Safe from Harm
- Community outreach and involvement
- Child Protection Initiatives

### **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the schools four-year review cycle or earlier as required.

Updated: 2018

Review: 2022

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