

ST PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL POLICY STATEMENT PASTORAL CARE

1. Rationale

St Pius X High School endeavours to provide for each member of the community – students, parents, staff and clergy – the experience of high quality interpersonal relationships of care and support. Such relationships have a significant positive affect on each person's sense of self-worth, belonging and well-being. Each member of the community participates to some degree in pastoral care, just as each is a recipient of pastoral care. The Pastoral Care Policy at St Pius provides a framework within which the total care and support of all members of the School community may be achieved.

Good pastoral care is a key determinant of successful learning. The key to good teaching and learning in any school is the learning environment, and the quality of this environment is significantly determined by the human relationships within the school.

Good pastoral care is essential for fostering student self-discipline and responsibility. Pastoral care should help students to recognize that their fundamental freedoms and rights are reciprocated by responsibilities. The Discipline Policy at St Pius evolves from the Pastoral Care Policy insofar as each seeks to promote a respectful, secure and healthy environment in which students grow to be discerning, self-disciplined and contributing members of society.

Occasionally, behaviours are exhibited that are disruptive to the teaching and learning process, show disregard for the School code of discipline and conduct, and/or threaten the safety of members of the School community. Such behaviour has consequences that affect the student, other students, their families, staff or the School itself. The Pastoral Care Policy guides the School's response to such behaviour. The rights, welfare and well-being of all members of the School community are respected, while at the same time any damage done to relationships within the community is repaired. The Restorative Justice Policy plays a major role in such cases.

The Pastoral Care Policy at St Pius X High School is guided by the principles stated in the Diocesan Pastoral Care Policy. The School's Vision & Mission Statement directs the Pastoral Care Policy at St Pius.

The Pastoral Care Policy seeks to implement our core values, namely that the School is a place where students:

- 1.1 Know that God is recognised and spoken about.
- 1.2 Feel welcome, safe, accepted and valued.
- 1.3 Grow as Christians.

- 1.4 Exercise responsible care for each other.
- 1.5 Develop their own special identity.
- 1.6 Grow towards wholeness.
- 1.7 Understand and appreciate the role and contribution of family.
- 1.8 Develop a healthy discipline and respect for self and others.

2. Aims

St Pius X High School through this Pastoral Care Policy aims:

- 2.1 To ensure that pastoral care is integral to and permeates the total environment and culture of the School
- 2.2 To create within the School community an affirming climate that gives value to the Gospel teachings of love, compassion, tolerance, acceptance, forgiveness, reconciliation and justice
- 2.3 To give expression to the relationships of faith, care and support that characterises the School's vision, ethos and practice
- 2.4 To develop structures, policies and practices that support the individual student and all members of the School community
- 2.5 To provide a framework within which the School community can maintain consistency of decisions and actions related to pastoral care
- 2.6 To develop awareness of the personal and societal stresses affecting students, teachers and families in the exercising of pastoral care
- 2.7 To develop persons who are responsible and inner-directed, and capable of choosing freely in accordance with an informed conscience.

3. Implementation

The Pastoral Care Policy will be implemented in the following ways:

- 3.1 The School Executive Team is responsible for publishing and promoting this policy within the School community.
- 3.2 The Dean of Students is directly responsible to the Principal for ensuring that the policy is implemented as an integral part of the total environment and culture of the School.

- 3.3 The School Executive Team is responsible for providing suitable Professional Development programs to ensure that all Staff are familiar with the policy and have the necessary knowledge and skills to implement the policy in an effective manner.
- 3.4 There are many School structures, role descriptions, policies, programs and events that have been developed to achieve specific aspects of the Pastoral Care Policy. The Restorative Justice Policy, the Discipline Policy, the House & Care Group System, the Retreat & Community Day Programs, Year 7-9 Alternate Program, Year 7 Orientation Program and the Year 10 Transition Program into St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton are major examples of such policies and programs.
- 3.5 Parents, professionals and agencies external to the School are used when appropriate to enhance the pastoral care provided at the School. For example, special guest speakers are invited to address the students on a wide range of important topics in pastoral programs such as Community Days, "Beyond the Classroom" and similar programs and special days for Year 10 towards the end of their time at St Pius.

4. BUDGET

Funding will be made available from within the School Budget for the various pastoral programs run at St Pius each year. Funding for professional development of Staff in pastoral care will be made available from the St Pius Professional Development Budget as the need arises.

5. EVALUATION

- 5.1 This policy will be reviewed and updated by the School Executive every five years or sooner if the need arises.