

Section 6.2

Pastoral Care Policy

Rationale

St John Bosco College strives to offer students quality educational opportunities in the context of a caring environment. Hence we are committed to the ideal of a learning community in which all members will offer mutual care and support. We understand pastoral care as a living and dynamic reality that is a reflection of God's love for us, especially as expressed in the person of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

It is our mission to nurture a dynamic Christian community, which seeks to develop the full human potential of each of its members. Hence, we endeavour to ensure that our pastoral care is a practical and tangible expression of our love for the students entrusted to our care.

Principles

At St John Bosco College we believe the quality Pastoral Care should:

1. be an expression of God's love for all people regardless of race, creed, colour or culture;
2. be oriented towards enabling each person to live fully their dignity as sons and daughters of God;
3. demonstrate a balance between the needs and rights of the individual and the needs and rights of the community;
4. meet each student at his/her point of need and within the context of community;
5. be expressed in quality personal relationships between all members of the College community;
6. nurture an environment where each student's full educational, spiritual, physical and social potential might be realised;
7. be supported by means of appropriate resources, personnel, structures and programs;
8. cultivate an environment which promotes a sense of communal direction and a sense of belonging;
9. offer solidarity, compassion, encouragement and challenge;
10. provide opportunities for personal growth, reconciliation and professional care;
11. be supported by educative programs that develop knowledge, skills and attitudes;
12. be enhanced by means of a safe, aesthetically pleasing and welcoming environment (both physically and emotionally).

Guidelines

1. There are four "House Groups" and each House is split into eight Pastoral Classes;
2. Each House is co-ordinated by a member of staff who acts as House Leader and each House also has two House Captains – a male and female Year 12 student;
3. Each Pastoral Class is led by a Pastoral Teacher, who is a person in a significant relationship of care of the student;
4. Each student belongs to a House and is allocated to a Pastoral class;

5. Students meet with their Pastoral Teacher in their Pastoral Class each morning for the purposes of roll call, administration and Silent Sustained Reading;
6. One period per week is devoted to Pastoral Care and a formal and informal program of pastoral care operates;
7. The Year Co-ordinator has the specific role of nurturing the community of the year group and overseeing the care of students in that year;
8. Year teams meet on a regular basis to anticipate pastoral care issues in the year group;
9. The pastoral care support system is outlined in the student diary. It is the framework for both the merit and caution system;
10. A school counsellor is employed to give assistance and guidance to all members of the College community;
11. House leaders have the specific role of promoting school spirit across Years 7 – 12 and encourage competition amongst the houses.