



St Brigid's Catholic School

New Norfolk

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

RATIONALE

Pastoral care is an expression of the philosophy and 'Mission & Values' statement of St Brigid's Catholic School. We endeavour to demonstrate pastoral care in all aspects of school life. The Christian ethos of the school is reflected in Gospel values and these values provide the foundation of the school community's pastoral care for one another. Gospel values are characterised within the environment of genuine care, compassion and love for all members of the school community. St Brigid's Catholic School's pastoral care policy works towards the achievement of such values for the good of all in the school community. Each person is respected and acknowledged as a valuable member of the St Brigid's Catholic School community. We seek to establish relationships and partnerships, which promote mutual understanding, respect, tolerance and acceptance, with staff, parents and students.

AIMS

To provide and maintain such an environment, we are encouraged to:

- Follow in Christ's footsteps by being authentic witnesses in acknowledging the giftedness of all, and by encouraging all to share their gifts and energies in the spirit of service.
- Become living witnesses of the Gospel values of truth, justice, freedom, love and service.
- Create a friendly, safe and supportive school community where all individuals are treated with dignity.
- Provide a balanced and broad Catholic Christian educational experience, which stimulates learning, encourages excellence and respects individual difference.
- Support staff through structures that allow for personal and professional growth.
- Give every opportunity to parents, who enter into an educational partnership with their children's educators, to share in their children's spiritual, emotional and intellectual development.
- Support students in the development of the whole person.
- Support staff, parents and students in times of grief, illness and stress.

PROCEDURES

- The pastoral care of students operates in conjunction with other policies, which operate within the school community.
- Teachers are available for dialogue with parents in all areas of their children's growth and education.
- Planned times are set aside for both formal and informal consultations on students' progress.
- Each class teacher, the first and regular point of pastoral contact, sees to the pastoral growth of the students in their care, especially in their spiritual, social, emotional and psychological growth.
- The values of respect, honesty, responsibility, diligence and truth are encouraged.
- The provision of professional development in pastoral care is made available to staff.
- Staff, and in particular, class teachers, recognise and encourage the following: birthdays, reward and encouragement systems, daily class prayer, involvement in liturgical preparation and celebration, positive reinforcement of the rules and guidelines within the classroom and school community.

- Celebration of Community:

A positive school climate is visible through such celebrations as:

St Brigid's and St Patrick's Feast Day

School Masses and Liturgies

Class Masses

Daily Prayer

Assemblies

Sporting events

Cultural events

Orientation days

Occasions of farewell and graduation

- Communication: Good communication provides the basis for positive school growth.

Examples of good communication practices within the school community include:

Informal everyday communication and greeting

Newsletters and notes to parents

Respecting the contribution of all

Maintaining privacy and confidentiality.

- Affirmation, Recognition and Encouragement: The recognition of members of the school community is achieved in ways such as:

Individual acknowledgement

Acknowledgement at assemblies of children's participation in cultural and sporting events, and showcasing their talents, skills and abilities

Merit, Class and Principal's certificates

Our School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support system

Acknowledgement in the Newsletter of children's participation in cultural and sporting events, academic achievements and positive contributions to the St Brigid's Catholic School community,

- Leadership: St Brigid's Catholic School invites and encourages adult and student leaders to be partners in decision making:

Staff Leadership Roles

Leadership Team

Curriculum Co-ordinators

Leadership Responsibilities

Mentoring

Parent Leadership Roles

School Board of Management

Parents and Friends Association

Student Leadership Roles

School Captains

House Captains

Grade 6 Student Parliament

Student Councillors Grades 3 to 5

Buddy System

Responsibility for school resources e.g. Monitors

Leadership roles and responsibilities within the classroom

- Personal Development: Great importance is placed on encouraging students to accept responsibility for their actions and to know and respect the boundaries of acceptable behaviour. Self-discipline is encouraged as a positive goal and students are helped to review their own behaviour with regard to its effect on other people and property.

- Parents and the School Community:

Partnership in education is fostered in ways such as:

Parish-based Sacramental programs

Assistance in classroom programs
Assistance in camping/outdoor education programs
Assistance at sporting and cultural events
Support of liturgical and celebratory events
Parent/Teacher Consultations
Information and Orientation Sessions
Policy determination and planning
Membership of parent groups

- The School and Parish Community: The school will foster liaison, communication and an active relationship between the Parish Priest, the Parish community and the school community. The Sacraments are received within the Parish Community.

*This policy and associated practices will be reviewed as part of the
St Brigid's Catholic School policy review cycle.*

October 1994
Amended 1998, April 2008, May 2012, October 2013