



St Brigid's Primary School

Pastoral Care Policy

Rationale:

St Brigid's pastoral care permeates all aspects of school life to integrate fully the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and physical development of students. Pastoral care is love in action. As such, St Brigid's Pastoral Care Policy aims to promote an atmosphere of love and understanding so that all families may experience belonging and trust. By promoting these values of unconditional acceptance we aim to enrich the entire learning experience of students and their families.

Christian Values:

"Pastoral Care is based on a deep respect for the dignity and uniqueness of the individual person as we are all made in the image of God. (Genesis 1:27)".¹

In translating 'Making Christ Present' pastoral care aims to assist each student to move toward the fullness of a life lived as a response to the love of God through the development of the whole person.

St Brigid's values individual differences including those with special needs or who are marginalized and recognises that everyone is significant and special.

By promoting a sense of security, social connectedness and open communication, an environment for improved emotional well being and learning is created.

This environment is an intentional network of care and hopes to foster the development of resilience in individuals.



Figure: Dimensions of Pastoral Care

"Pastoral care embraces more than the giving of well prepared, thought provoking and stimulating lessons. It means being concerned for the total well being of students, and with the development of the whole person within the context of the family, school, parish and wider community." ²

1. p6 Guidelines For Pastoral Care in Catholic Schools. 2003, NSW Catholic Education.

2. p7 Guidelines For Pastoral Care in Catholic Schools.

Policy Statement:

St Brigid's is founded on the motto 'Making Christ Present' and is committed to making this statement real through its Pastoral Care Policy which is:

- Designed to nurture the spirit of every student, staff and community member by 'touching their heart' and helping them understand why we are made human in the image of Christ
- Designed to 'touch the heart' of students, staff and parents to help them feel they belong, are connected to the Spirit and to each other
- 'Love in action' so that every member may be strong in Christ and become active in promoting peace, justice and harmony on this earth
- 'Lived' by every member of the school community who is responsible for keeping love active
- Specifically dedicated to the St Brigid's students in programs designed to action Pastoral Care e.g. good grief, counselling, peace wheel, reconciliation programs, prayer assemblies, family BBQ's and celebrations etc.

Principles:

At St. Brigid's, Pastoral Care is founded on a deep respect for the dignity and uniqueness of a community that prays and celebrates together.

Pastoral Care:

- Is love in action
- Permeates every phase/aspect of the school community
- Supports and/or Respects the confidentiality of all individuals/personal information
- Includes all staff, students, parents and the wider Parish community.
- Is explicit in intentional planning as well as implicit in the everyday life of the school