



PASTORAL CARE POLICY

CATEGORY

Governance

BACKGROUND

Pastoral Care at Penrhos College provides for the emotional wellbeing of the students. It is based on the belief that if a girl feels happy, settled and secure and has a sense of belonging, then she is more likely to maximise her learning potential.

POLICY STATEMENT

Pastoral Care is viewed as a shared responsibility for emotional wellbeing involving every member of the school community. It is reflected in the organisation of the College, the curriculum and teaching strategies, and the Pastoral Care programs and support services offered to students.

The Junior and Secondary Schools cater to the needs of their students by recognising the importance of the whole person paradigm of mind, heart, body and spirit. The structures and programs in place from Pre Kinder-Year12 are aimed to inspire students to explore their potential in each of these aspects. The Pastoral Care structures and programs are age appropriate and engaging, whilst offering a seamless transition from Junior to Secondary School.

Parents are encouraged to be familiar with, and engage in, the Pastoral Care support services, available to both students and their parents, and communicate with the College any information they believe may impact on their daughter's wellbeing during her time at the College.

Penrhos College is committed through policy and practice to a shared vision of a safe and friendly school.

What is Pastoral Care?

Pastoral Care promotes positive relationships between people, namely staff, parents and most importantly the students. In the context of Penrhos' 'whole person paradigm', Pastoral Care is about the heart, spirituality and the College values of synergy, integrity, knowledge, respect, empathy and growth.

The provision of Pastoral Care endeavours to provide a nurturing environment where each girl is respected as an individual, is cared for and actively encouraged to model the College core shared values. Our goal is for each student to graduate from the College as an independent, resilient and socially aware person who possesses a strong sense of self and a positive connection to her community. Our Pastoral Care

philosophy is articulated through strategic programs and supporting structures and through the work of a team of inspirational staff, with the focal point being to 'inspire girls to become extraordinary women'.

Our Pastoral Care programs recognise the overriding principle of 'acting in the best interests' of the child.

Our Approach

Our approach is framed around the phases of development. The phases of development recognise that at different stages the individual has different social and emotional needs. In the Junior School, these phases are identified as Early Years (Pre Kinder-Year 1), Middle Childhood (Years 1-3) and Late Childhood (Years 4-6). In the Secondary School, these phases are identified as Early Adolescence (Years 7-8), Late Adolescence (Years 9-10) and Young Adult (Years 11-12).

The Pastoral Care structures and programs are age appropriate and engaging, whilst offering a seamless transition from Junior to Secondary School. THRIVE articulates the range of programs, experiences and connections that support the wellbeing and personal growth of the students. Pastoral curriculum and programs are based on best practice in positive psychology.

The direction of Pastoral Care in the College is determined by the Pastoral Care Committee, and programs determined largely through the Junior and Secondary School Pastoral Care Committees.

The delivery of Pastoral Care to students is the responsibility of all staff, both academic and operational services, and this is reflected in the position statements of those respective roles. From Pre Kinder-Year 12, specialist staff including the Chaplain, Counsellors and Health Centre Nurses focus on the care and wellbeing of the students. In the Junior School, Pastoral Care is overseen by the Head and Deputy Head of Junior School, the Junior School Counsellor and teaching staff. In the Secondary School, Pastoral Care is overseen by the Dean and Assistant Dean of Pastoral Care, the Secondary School Counsellors and the Heads of Years 7-12, together with Form Teachers and all teaching staff.

Pastoral Care programs and procedures are reviewed regularly to respond to changes within the College, together with the changing needs of students and, the environment in which they live.

Implementation

Pastoral Care within the College is implemented through a combination of:

- effective programs
- staff training in student wellbeing, mental health and spiritual wellbeing
- effective incident notification procedures
- allocation of the overall responsibility for the effective implementation of Pastoral Care to the Dean of Pastoral Care and the Head of Junior School