



ST ANTHONY'S SCHOOL

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PASTORAL CARE POLICY

RATIONALE

St. Anthony's School Greenmount is a community growing together in faith where the quality of education develops the potential and dignity of the individual within a framework of Catholic attitudes and values, therefore we aim to educate the whole person in a dignified, professional and caring manner.

St. Anthony's School community believes an effective Pastoral Care policy is essential if we are to truly reflect the ideals expressed in the School's Vision.

Jesus' example highlights the model of the human person to which we aspire. Together, as members of the St. Anthony's School community, staff, children and parents should support one another as we strive to become more like Jesus Christ, our model and mentor.

We have a responsibility both to God's unending love for each and every one of us and helps us all to realise that we are made in God's image and likeness. Therefore, every individual is a person of worth and value.

DEFINITION OF PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care refers to the total climate of care, which exists within the school community. It refers to the care of the academic, social, emotional, physical and spiritual dimensions of people.

Pastoral care involves the development of wholesome and empathetic relationships within the school community.

"Pastoral Care is the integration of the academic, social, emotional, physical and spiritual dimensions of a school's energy so that an atmosphere of care prevails within the school community. Each member of the school community – parents, students and staff, is invited to become more fully human. Pastoral care is developing empathetic relationships so that the people in the school community are nurtured into wholesome maturity. Pastoral care is an expression of the philosophy and vision of the school." (Treston K. Pastoral Care for Schools)

PRINCIPLES

St. Anthony's School community aims to:

- i. Provide a school environment where the Catholic faith is valued and promoted.
- ii. Encourage families and members of the school community to attend Mass regularly, to participate in Sacramental and other Faith Development programs.
- iii. Raise parental awareness of their role in the education
- iv. Foster involvement between family, school, parish and the community.
- v. Respect all cultures.
- vi. Be sensitive to personal situations which may be affecting a person's life.
- vii. Strengthen the interaction between the school and home.
- viii. Increase and widen students, staff and parents' sense of belonging in the school.
- ix. Develop a sense of respect and self worth for each individual in our school community.
- x. Cater for and respect individuality to develop the special gifts of each person.
- xi. Improve curriculum and instructional practices, which will have a positive effect on students' attitudes and behaviour.
- xii. Encourage children to strive for excellence by providing opportunities for each child to develop their potential.

PROCEDURES

STUDENTS

St. Anthony's School's priority is to develop the "whole person". We endeavour to promote the development of each individual to his or her potential.

- i. The Religious Education program encourages children to care for fellow human beings in a Christian manner, integrating faith and life.
- ii. A discipline policy, based on a Christian ethos and the School's Evangelisation Plan, is run throughout the school, so that the children know exactly where they stand in fairness to all.
- iii. The school undertakes thorough preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- iv. Masses are held regularly. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in Lent and Advent.
- v. The children pray collectively each day and private prayer is fostered.
- vi. The school maintains an anti-bullying policy to ensure that children work and play in a safe and happy environment.
- vii. Presentation of Merit Certificates at fortnightly assemblies and other times as deemed appropriate, to build confidence and self-esteem.
- viii. The use of Year 6 Ministry groups to assist in the development of a sense of responsibility and independence.
- ix. The children are encouraged to take pride in their school uniforms and general personal presentation.
- x. The services of a Social Worker and Non Government School Psychologist are available to the children.
- xi. Positive reinforcement, in the form of verbal praise and small rewards, is used to promote acceptable behavior and to develop children's self esteem.
- xii. The Parents and Friends Association organises social events for families during the year.

- xiii. Participation in events such as the Catholic Schools Performing Arts Festival and the School's assemblies, 'Arts Night' and 'End of Year Concert' assist in the building of positive self-images and confidence.
- xiv. Excursions and incursions provide educational experiences, enhance social skills and provide links with the community.
- xv. The school's resources and facilities are constantly upgraded.
- xvi. The school has in place an evacuation plan to ensure the safety of the children in the event of an emergency.

STAFF

At St. Anthony's School, our staff supports one another as we strive to become more like Jesus Christ, our model.

- i. Staff prayer sessions are held each week.
- ii. Staff respect, accept and support each other as professionals and individuals.
- iii. Staff work cooperatively with a focus on teamwork in staff and Professional Learning Community Meetings.
- iv. Staff meetings, workshops, Religious Education in-services, teachers' Masses and professional development courses are undertaken regularly.
- v. Staff usually celebrate a 'get together' each term.
- vi. Staff birthdays and Feast Days are celebrated with special morning teas.
- vii. New staff members are welcomed by existing staff and are offered assistance in settling into the school.
- viii. The Leadership Team is available to assist staff with personal and professional problems when the need arises.
- ix. The staff network provides constructive advice and communication by generously sharing talents and time with others.

PARENTS

Parents are recognised as the primary educators of their children. As both teachers and parents are committed to the education of the children emphasis needs to be placed on honest communication between them. A spirit of cooperation is required for successful educational partnership.

- i. Families are encouraged to attend Mass every Sunday.
- ii. Meetings are held to assist parents in the development of their children's Sacramental preparation.
- iii. Information sharing evenings are provided to keep parents in touch with education programs.
- iv. The 'Parent Information Evening' at the commencement of each school year provides an opportunity for parents to find out what their children will be learning in their new classes.
- v. Parent/Teacher Interviews are scheduled for the end of term one to update parents on their children's progress and are conducted where the need arises.
- vi. A 'Learning Journey Night' later in the year provides an opportunity for parents to view their children's work and learning environment.
- vii. School reports are presented to parents at the end of each semester.
- viii. A fortnightly newsletter and Term Planners are published to keep parents informed.
- ix. The school website is regularly updated with news, policies and procedures to keep parents informed of school activities and requirements.
- x. Parents are encouraged to attend school Masses, assemblies and other school functions.

- xi. The Parents and Friends Association and School Board meet monthly. The P&F Association also hosts family events such as the 'Wine & Cheese' evening to welcome new families to the St. Anthony's school community.
- xii. Interviews with teachers and/or the principal are available by appointment.
- xiii. Formal school diaries are maintained in the middle and upper school to provide a communication link between the school and home.
- xiv. Teacher supervision of the playground ensures safety for the children before, during and after school, as detailed in the Parent Handbook.
- xv. Discounted school fees are available for parents suffering significant financial hardship. Complete confidentiality is assured.
- xvi. The school canteen operates three times per week (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday) for parents' convenience.

WIDER COMMUNITY

The school recognises that we live in a community beyond the schoolyard. It is therefore vital that the wider community is viewed as part of the children's education and, as such, children wherever possible, should be involved in programmes and events that occur at the local level.

- i. An awareness of the wider community is developed by active involvement in various projects and events, eg. 'Waterwise' Program
- ii. Utilisation of various outside school services, eg. Community library.
- iii. Participation in cultural and sporting activities with other schools eg. Performing Arts and Interschool Carnivals.
- iv. Incorporation of multiculturalism wherever possible, eg LOTE, Aboriginal Studies.