

1 Policy

The policy on Pastoral Care guides the St Oliver Plunkett Catholic Primary School (School) community in creating an environment of strong faith and dynamic learning. The policy applies to all participants in the community, allowing for the nurturing of positive relationships and the creation of a welcoming culture to all.

2 Rationale

In pastoral care, staff, parents/carers, students and the Parish are partners in creating an atmosphere of welcome and reconciliation, providing cohesion to the School community and a sense of security.

Pastoral care at the School is relational, dynamic and in a process of growth and change, as we seek new ways to create a climate of Catholic/Christian community.

3 Aims

The policy aims to guide the school community to:

- Create a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment to all; and
- Embrace the vision and mission of the School.

4 Implementation

The following are some of the positive ways in which we seek to develop pastoral care.

4.1 Organisation

- Orientation days for families with children enrolling into prep and new school families.
- Parent-Teacher evenings and meetings.
- A regular newsletter keeps parents informed on all matters of school life.
- Occasions of farewell and graduation mark the conclusion of student participation in school life.
- Regular assemblies keep students informed of happenings within the school, and allow a time of sharing with teachers.

4.2 Values/ Faith

- Prayer brings us together at whole school assemblies and liturgies, Parish Mass and on special occasions, e.g. the Ash Wednesday liturgy.
- Staff Prayer provides teachers with an opportunity to pray together.
- Family events are highlighted and support is offered in situations of bereavement.
- An invitation is extended to the Parish Priest to be involved in all aspects of the School's life.
- Visits by the Parish Priest are valued by staff and students.

4.3 Sense of community

- Encouraging school social functions that cater for all groups within the school community.
- Staff social activities provide opportunities to foster support and friendship among staff and their families.

- Celebration and recreation is encouraged regularly to build staff support and show appreciation.
- Celebration of teaching and student learning.
- Opportunities are encouraged to connect parents with student learning including an invitation to parents to be involved in classroom activities.
- Students are given opportunities to take leadership roles in the sporting, religious, social and academic undertakings of the school.
- Through a system of “Buddy” classes interaction and friendship is extended across age groups within the school. The “Buddy” system also gives teachers peer support.
- The presentation of student awards is a way of promoting self-esteem among students.
- Year level planning days help teachers professionally and provide an opportunity for peer sharing.
- The School Leadership Team supports staff by providing additional release time and release of duties where possible.

4.4 Relationships/partnerships

- The choice to attend Parents & Friends meetings to promote engagement between the school leadership and parents and providing consultation between the school and parents.
- A ‘class parent network’ that supports various functions held during the school year and welcomes new parents.
- School involvement in the activities of the Parish to promote a strong faith and involvement in the broader community.

5 Roles and Responsibilities

- Staff, parents and the Parish will understand, support and respect one another in their varying roles and responsibilities.
- All participants will live the values of our faith in the provision in the teaching and care of our children

6 Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years, or earlier at the discretion of the Principal.

7 Related documents

None