

# PASTORAL CARE POLICY



## **PREAMBLE**

St Columba College is a joint endeavour of the Anglican and Catholic Churches of South Australia. As a Christian College we are committed to providing students with relationships and an environment, which is supportive of their personal development. The pastoral care of our students is a responsibility of all staff members with particular responsibility given to those who work closely with individual students. While pastoral care is something that we seek to provide to individual students, we acknowledge that we also have a responsibility to the student community as a 'whole'. As such the needs of the individual have to be balanced against the common good.

### **1. Aims**

- Provide students with a safe and caring environment.
- Create clear structures which are supportive of excellent pastoral care of students.
- Develop opportunities for students to be both supported and challenged.
- Ensure that students belong to a variety of supportive pastoral care structures.
- Encourage the forming of appropriate relationships within the College community.
- Maintain clear lines of communication between students, their families and the College.

### **2. Definition of Pastoral Care**

Pastoral Care is a general term for the way in which both individual students and the wider student body are cared for, during the course of the educational program. It demands that we are in touch with students' needs and have in place procedures to support and nurture student development. The Pastoral Care of students challenges us to develop structures that will support students in taking an active role in the pastoral care of one another, as well as the College staff being proactive in taking care of students. It is ensuring that appropriate action can and will be taken to support students by those responsible, while maintaining and respecting student confidence.

### **3. Role of the College Council**

- Ensure that a relevant and workable policy is in place for the pastoral care of students.
- Revise and review the pastoral care policy at regular intervals.
- Ensure that all issues relating to pastoral care of students is in keeping with our Anglican and Catholic ethos.
- Maintain the balance between the needs of individuals and the overall needs of the College community.

### **4. Role of the College Principal**

- Ensure that the aims of the policy are converted to workable structures.
- Maintain a presence with the students that displays personal care for them.
- Involvement in any major issues of behaviour management (i.e. any time that an external suspension is involved).
- Ensure that close links are maintained between the College and the student's family.
- Ensure that the pastoral care of students is a key dimension in the overall philosophy of the College.



## **5. Role of the Head of Section**

- Ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in relation to student well being.
- Work with class and subject teachers in identifying particular students who are in need of additional support for a period of time.
- Maintain a close relationship between the College and the student's home life, especially in issues relating to behavioural concerns.

## **6. Role of the Chaplain(s)**

- Provide opportunities for one to one confidential support for students.
- Organise opportunities for staff development in the area of pastoral care of students.
- Provide specialised programs for groups of students in social development.
- Liaise with parents as required.
- Keep the Principal informed of significant issues.

## **7. Role of Staff**

- Ensure that all students are a part of a supportive pastoral care structure.
- Maintain positive relationships with students in their care.
- Maintain open and positive lines of communication between the College and the student's home.
- Refer students to the College Chaplain if required.
- Ensure that the Head of Section is aware of any serious issues relating to a student's needs.
- Support other staff members in their pastoral care responsibilities.

## **8. Role of Students**

- Ensure that positive relationships with other students is a priority within the College.
- Act in a way that fosters the maintenance and development of a safe and happy College environment.
- Display positive behaviour in keeping with College rules and expectations.
- Act in a way which supports the development of our Christian community.
- Be a leader, always giving good example to others.
- Seek out the support of responsible adults if required.

## **9. Other Policies which are a part of our Pastoral Care**

- The following policies, while standing in their own right, form a part of the overall pastoral care of students:
  1. Drug and Illegal Substance Policy
  2. Student Leadership Policy
  3. House Group Policy
  4. Behaviour Management Policy
  5. Outdoor Education Policy
  6. Religious Education Policy