



Santa Clara Primary School

Pastoral Care Policy

RATIONALE

Pastoral Care at Santa Clara School means enhancing the dignity of each person within the Catholic Faith community of Santa Clara. It is informed by and given its spirit by the school's place as a part of the evangelical ministry of the Church. The Catholic school is in essence the face of Christ for its whole community and its pastoral role needs to infuse every aspect of its operation and its relationships. (CEO of W.A.)

Recognising the uniqueness and dignity of each person, Santa Clara School strives to develop the whole child within a positive and caring environment, where each one is affirmed and supported with Christian love.

At Santa Clara School we believe that all members of the school community have a fundamental right to be treated with respect and, for students and school staff, to learn and teach in a safe and supportive environment. We believe in fostering and nurturing attitudes and values which will encourage the students to make right choices for behaviour that is morally and socially acceptable.

We believe that our working together with parents and guardians is essential for the development of responsible behaviour of students who are in the care of the staff at Santa Clara School.

Formulation of Santa Clara School's Pastoral Care policy requires a collaborative approach, adherence to the Bishop's Mandata to Catholic Schools and is designed within the guidelines of the Framework for the Development of Pastoral Care in Catholic Schools (CEO of W.A.)

DEFINING PASTORAL CARE

"Pastoral Care may be defined as the expressions of care in the school community which bring together the diverse aspects of school life, academic, social, physical and religious. Pastoral Care is love in action. It invites students, staff and parents to make choices about life which fulfil their destiny as sons and daughters of God, created in God's likeness. Pastoral Care embraces the whole gamut of the curriculum and grounds the school's mission statement in the quality of daily relationships" (Treston, 1992 pp. 2,-28).

Pastoral Care at Santa Clara School means enhancing the dignity of each person within our school community. It is concerned with maximising learning and growth and developing the beliefs, values, attitudes, knowledge, skills and practices of each member of this community within a caring environment that is totally committed to supporting and living the Catholic principles and ideals. Our Pastoral Care Policy is intricately linked to our school goals as published on our school website:

Written:2001

Reviewed: 2004, 2008, 2013

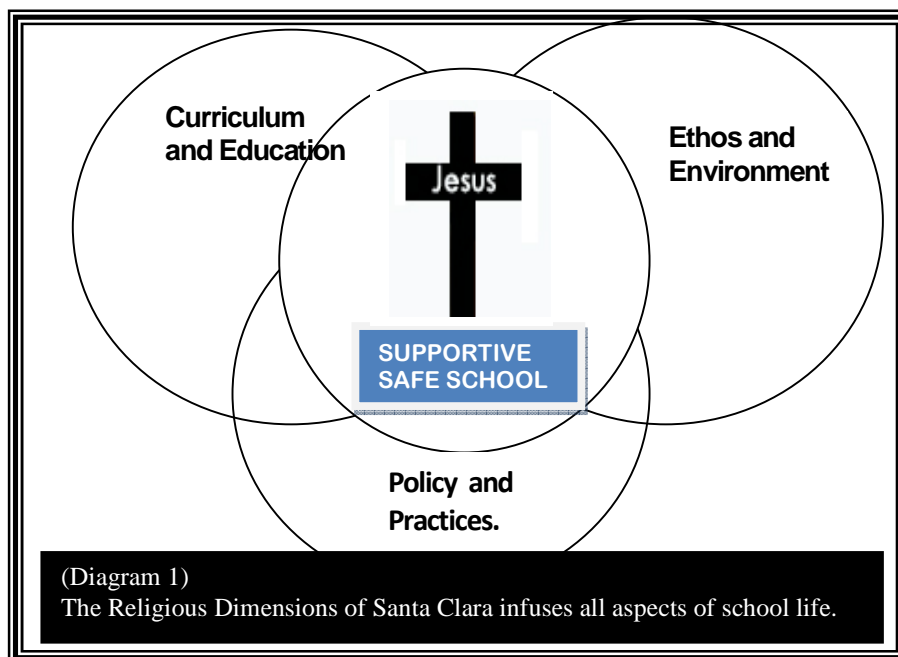
Due for Further Review: 2017.

We strive to :

- Give witness to the Gospel message.
- Foster a loving and meaningful relationship between God and each individual.
- Promote the cultural identity of the Catholic School through story, sign and symbol.
- Assist in the development of self-worth and the dignity of each individual.
- Provide opportunities for each person to develop his/her potential-spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally and socially.
- Acknowledge and respond to the uniqueness of each individual.
- Promote an awareness of the need to respect and care for all creation.

PRINCIPLES

The full dignity of the human person is enhanced when all the elements are interlinked, refer to diagram 1.



The function of Pastoral Care in Santa Clara Catholic School is to:

- Provide an environment, a curriculum and a set of practices based on the message of Christ;

- Enable students to attain the beliefs, values, attitudes, knowledge, skills and practices which will enable them to achieve Christ's vision of the human person;
- To develop as confident Christians, secure in their strengths, aware of their needs, capable of free choice, responsible decision making and able to work academically to the best of their ability.

PROCEDURES:

STUDENTS :

Pastoral Care of the students takes place through staff. The following are the responsibility of all staff members with the children. Santa Clara School encourages students to develop as confident Christians, secure in their strengths, aware of their needs, and able to work academically to the best of their ability.

Strategies:

- Provide situations which encourage children to recognise and believe in themselves and celebrate life with one another.
- Provide personal development and self-esteem programmes for children.
- Plan programmes which develop interpersonal relationship skills.
- Implement the full curriculum based on Catholic Education Office and Ministry of Education requirements, modify these to suite the children by providing for specific needs ,catering for individual differences and valuing the uniqueness of every student..
- Encourage the individuality of children by extending to them the courtesies expected in a caring society – Addressing them by name : Taking time to listen to them : Making realistic demands which recognise a variety of abilities and qualities.
- Know the children including their family background and education history of children considered at risk.
- Communicate with parents frequently and at any point of need

STAFF:

Pastoral Care of the staff occurs through staff and is the responsibility of all staff. Staff work and lead together under the principles of the Bishops Mandate with the aim of improving student learning and enhancing teacher instruction. A friendly, supportive and co-operative atmosphere amongst members of staff is essential to the whole school's well-being. Parallel in importance is the maintenance, development and application of teaching skills which include not only the ability of class teachers to teach a comprehensive range of subjects in an interesting way but also, being able to nurture and develop the talents of all children.

Strategies

- Providing opportunities through staff prayer and in-services for ongoing faith development of all staff members.
- Regularly gather as a professional learning community, share our knowledge, plan and attend in-service to develop teaching skills, techniques and update knowledge.
- Sharing knowledge gained at such in-service e.g. by reporting to staff at PLC meetings.
- Accepting responsibility for organising and development some area of the curriculum.
- Support and attend school and parish celebrations such as the celebration of Sacraments and Parents and Friends fund-raising and community building events.
- Organising celebrations and programmes within the school for annual events such as *Book Week* , *Santa Clara Day*, *Multicultural Week*, *Lent* and *Project Compassion*.
- Implement effective programming which reflects the spirit of the school goals and policy, significant church and educational statements and the professional image of the informed and caring teacher.
- Further Professional Development of individual staff members.
- Upgrading of religious knowledge and appropriate Accreditation to ensure the children are nurtured into the Church.
- New staff at Santa Clara School will be introduced and have opportunity for staff induction.
- Teachers new to the profession (graduates) will be offered mentoring and support by more senior members of staff including support in developing classroom management skills and strategies.
- Support policy decisions and enforce school rules consistently.

PARENTS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY:

Pastoral Care of the parents occurs through staff. Responsibilities are shared among staff members. The staff recognise and respect the role of parents as prime educators of their children and parents and the school share the commitment to the education of children. Multicultural issues, socio-economic pressures, family situations, language differences and religious situations require understanding and mutual respect.

The staff are responsible for maintaining avenues of cooperation and communication and accept the following responsibilities with and to parents:

Strategies:

- Be welcoming and readily available to parents.
- Conduct regular consultation and reporting with parents on the individual development of students.
- Parent orientation meeting early in Term 1 to explain class systems of discipline, homework etc.
- Education meetings e.g. Sacramental Programme, Literacy, Numeracy and Parent Information Meetings.
- Parent/teacher availability for discussion outside school times.
- Utilising parents' resources and welcoming and encouraging their participation in the school.
- Weekly newsletter.
- Use the P. & F. as a forum for consulting with the parent body on issues related to the management of the school and the teaching/learning program provided.
- School activities e.g. camps, incursions and excursions.
- Social and fund-raising occasions.
- Special Occasions e.g. Mother's Day, Father's Day, School Sports Carnivals.