



# Marian Catholic College Pastoral Care Policy

## Rationale

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga are committed to “providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment conducive to learning”.<sup>1</sup> This is characterised by endorsing the gospel values of justice, inclusion, reconciliation, respect, truth and honesty.

<http://schoolsweb.csoww.catholic.edu.au/portals/1/Documents/CSOHandbook/Wellbeing/Pastoral Care Policy.pdf>

## Policy Statement

Pastoral care is central to the ethos of Marian Catholic College and integrates with the intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual dimensions of learning. The goal of pastoral care within the College community is to create and maintain an atmosphere where members feel they are known, safe, valued, respected and happy and have a sense of belonging and empowerment.

Pastoral Care encompasses all relationships and activities of the College. Pastoral Care is the overt expression of the worth and value of each individual.

At Marian, Pastoral Care is the active and ongoing concern for each individual which embodies the Catholic ethos of the College in the tradition of the Mercy Sisters and Marist Brothers.

## Definition

*Pastoral Care is expressed through:*

- the building of positive and harmonious relationships.
- teaching and learning experiences based on mutual respect and acknowledgement of individual differences.
- co-operation between all members of the College community.
- fostering and development of a philosophy of self-discipline.
- reflection of Gospel values of love, service and justice in all aspects of College life.
- recognition and acceptance of the cultural diversity within the College.

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<sup>1</sup> Vision and Mission Statement, Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Wagga Wagga

## **Implementation**

Pastoral Care at Marian will:

- promote the vision and mission of the College and should be seen in conjunction with all other policies, procedures and guidelines operating within the College;
- have the individual as the focus;
- permeate all aspects of College life;
- be seen as a mutual responsibility of all members of the learning community; and
- acknowledge the rights and responsibilities of each person.

The College has four Houses and all staff and students are aligned to an individual House. The staff and students start the day in their Homeroom. It is where they receive support, encouragement and guidance.

Marian Catholic College will aim to:

- offer a formal Pastoral Care Program that aims to develop the whole person;
- provide and develop effective integrated pastoral care, based on the care of the individual within each Homeroom;
- provide effective teaching and learning experiences;
- promote and provide a variety of co-curricula activities;
- provide specialist services and referral systems for students with special needs;
- undertake just and fair discipline practices;
- maintain open communication with parents and guardians;
- offer a variety of leadership opportunities for students, parents and staff;
- provide opportunities for personal and communal spiritual growth through prayer, liturgy and other faith enhancing experiences;
- provide opportunities for personal growth through the Retreat/Camp/Community Day program;
- develop and review structures and procedures that ensure the care and safety of all individuals within the community;
- have a clear statement of responsibilities, referral protocols and communication processes to support and monitor students at risk;
- support staff professional learning in the area of pastoral care.

Pastoral care encompasses behaviour management and emotional support. Marian's procedures for managing behaviour with understanding, compassion and justice will be aligned with the principles of Restorative Justice. The promotion of respect, justice, honesty, mediation, forgiveness and reconciliation underpins the implementation of pastoral care. It should provide a framework for quality interpersonal relations between members of the community.

This policy operates in conjunction with policies and protocols to counter all forms of bullying, harassment, violence, abuse and neglect to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment. Action will be oriented towards prevention and intervention.

Duty of care and privacy and confidentiality will be consistent with Diocesan policy.

### **Evaluation**

With the support of the Director of Pastoral Care, the Principal will monitor the degree to which the outcomes of this policy are being met. A review will take place annually.