



KILLESTER COLLEGE

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

CONTEXT

The core of Killester College's Pastoral Care Policy is based on a deep respect for the innate dignity and uniqueness of each person.

Pastoral Care also draws on the Killester Mission Statement which requires the school to:

- * Create a school community which is clearly based on the values of Jesus
- * Appreciate one another's differences and individual worth
- * Work co-operatively to develop responsibility, self discipline and adaptability
- * Maintain a school environment in which enthusiasm, joy and simplicity are valued
- * Provide opportunities for leadership that enable young people to make a contribution to their environment and to the world

Curriculum and Pastoral Care are at the heart of the life of the school. We recognize that schools are places where young people learn, meet and evolve as individuals within a social context.

VALUES

Respect; Inclusiveness; Emotional safety; Physical Safety; Opportunity for spiritual growth; Support for individuals; Effective learning.

POLICY

The Killester community will adopt a whole school approach to pastoral care. It will aim to develop quality relationships among staff, students, families and our wider community. Killester College staff will work to ensure that the values of respect for the individual and acceptance of the individual will underpin all other school policies, procedures and structures.

IMPLICATIONS

- A whole school approach to Pastoral Care emphasizes that Pastoral Care is embedded in all school activities, which address educational, personal, social and spiritual growth of the student, and is the responsibility of all staff. Communication between staff about pastoral issues is crucial to the successful implementation of Pastoral Care.
- Pastoral Care is concerned with assisting all students to complete their education and to ensure that all students are able to access support where needed.
- All staff are responsible for the pastoral care of students, therefore there is a responsibility for all staff to engage in professional learning related to this.
- The curriculum, resources and teaching strategies will cater for a wide diversity of learning interests, needs and styles within a mixed ability classroom.

- Pastoral Care will be supported by the values taught and opportunities given for reflection and prayer through the Religious Education program.
- A program of community celebrations will take place regularly to foster a sense of belonging, community and responsibility for others.
- Support for staff in implementing this policy will be provided through regular professional development and appropriate individual professional development.
- The rights and responsibilities of staff and students are central to establishing a safe learning environment.
- Student issues and concerns will be dealt with in a whole school approach, with support programmes established and monitored by appropriate support group meetings.
- Leadership programmes will be based on the concept of “Servant Leadership” in which leaders serve the needs of all students and seek to consult widely in decision-making processes.
- Pastoral Care programmes will seek to develop skills and values through training programmes for students, so that they may become resilient and adaptable and show initiative in dealing with issues of concern.
- Support for staff in implementing this policy will be provided through regular whole staff and appropriate individual professional development.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. A broad range of activities is needed to provide good Pastoral Care. These include:
 - * A home room support structure
 - * Educational support
 - * Community building activities
 - * Opportunities to explore spirituality
 - * Leadership opportunities
 - * Co curricular activities
 - * Transitional support for students entering and leaving the school for other pathways
 - * Links to counselling and other support organizations and professionals
 - * Policies and programs that address issues as relationships, bullying and drug abuse, health and sexuality
2. Responsibility for the day to day pastoral care of students lies with the subject teachers and homeroom teacher of each student, supported by the student’s Level Coordinator, the Student Development Coordinator, Department Heads, Post Compulsory Team and Student Support Assistant.
3. Learning needs are catered for by Literacy and Learning Support Programmes as well as by differentiated approaches to teaching and learning within the classroom.

RELATED POLICIES

This Pastoral Care Policy and Guidelines will be reflected in all our policies, practices and procedures, particularly in the following:

- * Behaviour Management
- * Post Compulsory
- * Homework
- * Student Support Procedures
- * Drug Education
- * Mandatory Reporting
- * Anti Bullying
- * Curriculum Statement
- * Enrolment
- * Teaching and Learning
- * Middle Years of Schooling

Ratified by Stewardship Council 13/05/04