



Policy No:	SPCP v1
Approval Date:	27 November 2023
Previous Review Date:	N/A
Next Review Date:	27 November 2025
Author:	Director of Catholic Schools

Student Pastoral Care Policy

PURPOSE

Pastoral Care is brought to life in a Catholic School through the actions, attitudes and interactions taken by its leaders and community members. It applies across all dimensions of Catholic education and is centred on relationships and recognition, involving the key elements of caring for, respecting, and valuing each person's inherent human dignity.

Diocese of Lismore Catholic Schools Limited (DLCSL) is committed to supporting schools to develop Pastoral Care practices that promote, enhance and support the physical, social, emotional, psychological, intellectual and spiritual wellbeing of all students.

Pastoral Care in Catholic schools plays a vital role in nurturing students' spiritual, emotional, and social growth. It is founded in Jesus Christ and the Gospel imperative that every student we serve in Catholic schools will be enabled to achieve the fullness of life (John 10:10). Pastoral Care seeks to create a supportive and inclusive environment where all students can flourish academically, morally, and spiritually, enabling them to become well-rounded individuals and faithful disciples of Christ.

The purpose of this policy is for DLCSL to provide direction to Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lismore regarding the provision of an environment in which the wellbeing of all students can be promoted and safeguarded through data-informed practices that meet the needs of the school context.

APPLICATION

This policy is for all employees, contractors and volunteers of DLCSL in the context of Pastoral Care. Employees, contractors and volunteers are to make themselves familiar with the requirements of this document and ensure they comply with the behaviours and obligations outlined within it.

POLICY

DLCSL understands that Pastoral Care is a shared responsibility amongst the school staff, students, parents and carers, the Catholic Schools Office, clergy, and members of the wider school community. Consistent with its mission and values, DLCSL strives to ensure that all children are known, valued, respected and feel safe.

RATIONALE

Pastoral Care in a Catholic School is enacted through a comprehensive and coordinated approach that permeates all aspects of school life, reflecting the authentic vision and mission of the school. This approach is evident in aspects such as the school's policies, procedures and priorities for student wellbeing, behaviour management, family engagement, community partnerships, and overall school climate. It is designed based on the current and future context of the school across a continuum of care to address the needs at a whole school, classroom and individual level.

Pastoral Care aims to promote wholeness, inner strength, resilience, and wellbeing through meaningful relationships. Staff model for students the building and maintaining of healthy relationships, which incorporate mutual respect, dignity, fairness, reconciliation, restoration, compassion and justice. Within these relationships, students feel emotionally and physically cared for, respected, and valued for their contributions, gifts, and abilities.

A whole school approach to Pastoral Care actively seeks and incorporates students' perspectives in order to promote positive learning outcomes. Students are able to express their views and are provided with authentic and meaningful opportunities to participate in decisions that affect their lives. It also involves consultation and collaboration with families and teachers in promoting the wellbeing of students.

DLCSL recognises that student wellbeing positively influences learning outcomes, and reciprocally, success in learning enhances student wellbeing. As such schools must consider learning and teaching, and the development of wellbeing, as being inextricably linked.

OUTCOMES

DLCSL will assist schools to enact the Pastoral Care Policy by supporting the development of the Whole School Approach to Pastoral Care Guidelines tailored to their local context.

Pastoral Care school priorities are data and evidence informed.

Practices, programs and interventions are facilitated across a continuum of care.

Schools actively participate in DLCSL professional learning opportunities that are linked to a system and school priorities.

Students experience a rich, supportive learning environment inside and outside the classroom that is respectful, caring, inclusive and culturally safe.

Student wellbeing underpins pedagogical practice and curriculum design.
The establishment and maintenance of trusting relationships are the shared responsibilities of schools and families.

Students play an active role in fostering positive learning environments and promoting the wellbeing of both themselves and their peers.

RELATED DOCUMENTATION

Catholic Education in the Diocese of Lismore: The Mission of Jesus Christ Foundational Values

Child Safeguarding Policy

Student Anti-Bullying Prevention and Response Procedures

Student Non-Attendance Procedures

Responding to Concerns about Problematic Sexualised Behaviour of Children and Young People
(Primary)

Responding to Concerns about Problematic Sexualised Behaviour of Children and Young People
(Secondary)

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)

Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Cth)