



## LOYOLA COLLEGE

### PASTORAL CARE POLICY

<b>Intended audience</b>	Loyola College Community
<b>Author</b>	DOWAL ~ Development of Wellbeing at Loyola
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#### **PREAMBLE**

A fundamental belief for Catholic schools is that in Jesus is seen God's image and likeness in its human expression, and that Jesus' values and teachings show all people 'the way, the truth and the life' (*John 14:6*). As a Catholic co-educational College in the Ignatian tradition, Loyola College is guided by its motto of Justice, Mercy and Faith. As such, the College strives to provide the experience of high quality interpersonal relationships of care and support. In accordance with this belief, values to be promoted within Loyola College's understanding and practice of pastoral care include love, respect, compassion, tolerance, forgiveness, repentance, reconciliation and justice.

Pastoral care of students is realized in many aspects of College life, and especially in our College's Vision and Mission statements, policies, procedures, programs, teaching and learning curriculum, student activities, student support and wellbeing services, behaviour management processes, family engagement, community partnerships, and school climate.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

**Pastoral Care:** refers to action taken within Loyola College by its community members to promote and enhance student wellbeing of a personal, social, physical, emotional, mental or spiritual nature. Key elements of student wellbeing include positive self-regard, respect for others, positive relationships, responsible behaviours and personal resilience.

In ensuring the wellbeing of all students, corporal punishment is not permitted at Loyola College.

## **PRINCIPLES**

Pastoral Care is underpinned by the Christian vision that articulates the following explicit values and principles:

1. The belief that each person is created in the image and likeness of God (*Genesis 1:27*).
2. That 'the person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: this is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school.'
3. That student wellbeing is best achieved within a school environment:
  - That is safe, supportive, inclusive and empowering
  - Where diversity is respected and valued
  - Where human rights and the common good are honoured
  - Where inter-relationships are positive
  - Where students experience connectedness and engagement, and
  - Where those experiencing difficulty or special need receive particular care and support
4. Enhanced student wellbeing contributes significantly to improved student learning outcomes. Effective pastoral care is therefore recognised as:
  - Promoting the achievement of learning outcomes
  - Contributing to a School Improvement Framework
5. Respectful and cooperative school-family relationships provide an effective channel of pastoral care for students. Schools and families share responsibility for developing and maintaining such relationships of trust, characterised by respect for the goodwill of the other and a willingness to engage collaboratively.
6. Effective whole-of-school approaches to pastoral care require age-appropriate behavioural education and skilling of students, and pastorally driven management of student behaviour through processes focused on both individual and community wellbeing, and on ensuring a just and reasonable balance of individual and community rights, needs and responsibilities.
7. Effective school-community partnerships offer opportunities for networks of pastoral care for students.

## **RELEVANT DOCUMENTS**

CEOV Policy 2.26 Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools

CEOM Policy 2.13 Drug Issues in Catholic Schools

CEOM Policy 2.19 Mandatory Reporting of Child Physical and Sexual Abuse

CEOM Policy 2.25: Parents as Partners

Critical Incident Management Plan

Restorative Practices Policy