



LOYOLA COLLEGE

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Intended audience	Loyola College Community
Author	DOWAL - Development of Wellbeing at Loyola
Ratified	Semester 2 2018
Review date	

PREAMBLE

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, the *cura personalis*. In accordance with this belief, values to be promoted within Loyola College's understanding and practice of pastoral care include love, respect, compassion, acceptance, forgiveness, repentance, reconciliation and justice.

Pastoral care of students is realised in many aspects of College life, and especially in our College's Vision and Mission statements, policies, structures, 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: 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.

Student behaviour management: Student behaviour management seeks to protect personal and school community safety, heal destructive behaviours, restore relationships, encourage reconciliation, enhance wellbeing, foster responsibility, enable personal growth, and promote the common good.

Negotiated transfer of students in circumstances of a serious nature: In some serious circumstances, a change of school or a move to an alternative setting may be judged the most appropriate means by which a student's wellbeing can be responsibly supported or restored. Such a change, known as negotiated transfer, offers opportunity for personal growth, and for a fresh start

in an environment more suited to the student's needs and circumstances. Negotiated transfer may also be an appropriate move by which the wellbeing of a school community can be protected (e.g. when a student's continuing presence poses a threat to that community's safety).

Suspension and expulsion of students: Under the most serious and extreme of circumstances, when a student has repeatedly engaged in serious wrongful behaviour and all other appropriate behaviour management processes have proved unsuccessful and the serious behaviour persists, it may be judged that the only responsible action left is expulsion. While this is to be avoided wherever possible, only the Principal has the authority to expel a student, after having sought the prior approval of the diocesan Executive Director of Catholic Education.

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

GUIDING 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 promotion of the human person, including his or her material and spiritual needs is at the heart of Christ's teaching and therefore the goal of the Catholic school.
3. Schools exercise their pastoral care responsibilities under the leadership of the Principal. Parents exercise their responsibility by providing positive support and collaborative engagement with the school in support of student and school community wellbeing.
4. 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 relationships are positive
 - Where students experience connectedness and engagement, and
 - Where those experiencing difficulty or special need receive particular care and support
5. 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
6. 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.

7. Effective whole-of-school approaches to pastoral care require:
 - age-appropriate behavioural and skills education of students and pastorally driven management of student behaviour through processes focused on both individual and community wellbeing
 - a just and reasonable balance of individual and community rights needs and responsibilities.
8. Effective school-community partnerships offer opportunities for networks of pastoral care for students.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

Loyola College – House System Policy

Loyola College – Restorative Practices Policy

Loyola College – Respectful Student Relationships Policy

Loyola College – Student Services Policy

Loyola College – Critical Incident Management Policy

Loyola College – Student Behaviour Management Procedural Document

CEM Policy 2.26 Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools

CEM – Guidelines for Behaviour Support

CEM Policy 2.13 Drug Issues in Catholic Schools

CEM Policy 2.19 Child protection – Reporting Obligations

The National Safe Schools Framework