



# PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

## FEBRUARY 2017

### 1. **PURPOSE**

To provide a happy, caring and compassionate school where social justice, respect, hope and other Gospel values are reflected in all that we do.

### 2. **POLICY STATEMENT**

Our pastoral care finds its authenticity in, and is modelled on, the person of Jesus Christ, who is its focus, source of strength and inspiration. The responsibility of care is entrusted to all members of the school community. Recognising the dignity and uniqueness of each person, made in the image and likeness of God, the educator treats each with respect and love. The school community, grounded in the Gospel of Jesus, is imbued with a sense of compassion, tolerance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and justice.

### 3. **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all members of the school community.

### 4. **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- i. Students' behaviour can become disruptive to the teaching and learning process and/or threaten safety. Such behaviour has consequences which affect students, their families, staff members and the reputation of the school itself. A school's discipline practices evolve from its pastoral care policy insofar as each seeks to promote a respectful, secure and healthy environment in which students grow to be discerning, self-disciplined and contributing members of society.
- ii. The pastoral care policy of St Patrick's Primary School reflects the Diocesan Vision for Catholic schools: "*At the heart of everything there is always Jesus Christ.*" It is also guided by the school's vision statement: "*St Patrick's School is a place of quality education, opportunity and growth. In a community of faith and love, we bring out the best in one another.*"

### 5. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- i. The staff strives to create a caring and positive environment within the classroom so that the students will feel safe and happy.
- ii. The class teachers teach a Religious Education program which aims to educate the students in the Catholic faith through participation in liturgy, sacramental life, prayer, instruction and example.
- iii. The class teachers teach the five "keys to success" through the "You Can Do It" program which aims to develop the social and emotional intelligence of the students. The five "keys" are confidence, organization, persistence, getting along and resilience.
- iv. Reading intervention programs, such as MiniLit, MultiLit and Rapid Reader, are offered to students who would benefit from individual or small group intervention.
- v. Students who are talented in sport are given many opportunities to participate in school-based events as well as representative fixtures.
- vi. Students with an interest in gardening, chess, coding and social justice have the opportunity to become members of various school-based clubs and teams.
- vii. Each Kindergarten student is paired up with a Year 5 student as a means of enabling a mentor relationship between each pair of students.

- viii. Either the learning support teacher or a learning support assistant facilitates social skills groups. These are generally run for small groups of students who are experiencing relationship issues with one another. They are run on a needs basis.
- ix. The teachers use a variety of reward systems in the classroom to encourage and affirm positive behaviour.
- x. Students are awarded “Gotchas” for following our school rules to “Be Safe”, “Be Respectful” and “Be Responsible”. These Gotchas can be exchanged for privileges.
- xi. Each teacher gives two awards at the weekly Friday assembly as a means of recognizing the students’ achievements. One of the awards is for a student who exhibits exceptional skills or improvement in applying one of the five “You Can Do It” keys to success. The other award is the teacher’s choice.
- xii. At the end-of-year presentation ceremony, students are awarded prizes for academic achievement, consistent effort and community service.
- xiii. St Patrick’s is a ‘Sun Smart’ school that encourages students to be aware of the health issues related to exposure to the sun. The school has a policy of “No Hat, Play In The COLA”.
- xiv. Students with disabilities are welcome at St Patrick’s. Those students are supported in the classroom and on the playground. Students with disabilities allow other students the opportunity to see beyond the disability and to appreciate the gifts that those students bring to St Patrick’s.
- xv. The staff is regularly inserviced in how to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid, including the treatment of anaphylaxis and asthma.
- xvi. Staff members are given opportunities to be inserviced in pastoral care and behaviour management strategies.
- xvii. Disciplinary measures and sanctions should not be approached merely as punitive actions, but in the context of endeavouring to foster responsibility and change.
- xviii. Corporal punishment is banned as a punitive measure at St. Patrick's.

**6. BUDGET**

The school will make provision each year in its annual budget for professional development opportunities for the staff, parents and grandparents in regard to this area.

**7. NEXT REVIEW DATE**

This policy will be reviewed in 2020 in consultation with relevant staff.

**8. DEFINITIONS**

- i. **Pastoral Care:** The active pursuit of programs and practices that promote and develop the intellectual, emotional, physical, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions of individuals through the enhancement of a safe, secure environment where support structures are evident.
- ii. **Mentoring:** The facilitation of an adult-to-youth or older youth-to-younger youth relationship.
- iii. **Vision statement:** A visible and public declaration of the preferred future of the diocese or school. It reflects the needs, values and circumstances of the community based on reliable social, cultural and economic information. The values and concerns of Jesus as presented in the gospel inform and permeate the vision, structures and policies of the Catholic school.

**9. LEGISLATIVE / PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINES**

- i. Vision for Catholic Schools: Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.
- ii. Vision statement: St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School, Swansea.
- iii. Pastoral Care Policy: Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle (2003).