



## Pastoral Care Policy

### CONTEXT STATEMENT

Pastoral care is the total expression of Samaritan College's education, care and wellbeing of students. It is grounded in respectful relationships and is life-giving; nurturing growth and acknowledging the rights of all members of the College community. Pastoral Care is both an attitude and a process based on respect for the human dignity of each person.

The word 'pastoral' comes from the Latin 'pastor' and refers to the shepherd caring for his flock, following the model of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Pastoral Care is used to describe the care which has always been integral to the philosophy of the Catholic School.

Jesus describes in Matthew's scripture the depth of feeling of a shepherd.

*"When he saw the crowd he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless like a sheep without a shepherd" Matthew 9:36.*

Jesus then continued his mission to bring the good news of love and compassion to all. In the scripture story of the Samaritan Man Jesus teaches us the need to provide care and compassion while ensuring the dignity of the person and relationship be maintained.

*"...a Samaritan while travelling came near him: and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and water on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him" Luke 10:33-34.*

Pastoral Care is the active pursuit of programs and practices which promote and develop the intellectual, emotional, physical, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions of individuals through the establishment of a safe, secure and welcoming environment where support structures are evident.

This policy document outlines the pastoral care at Samaritan College which provides for the:

- Development of the whole person;
- Deepening of the faith in each student's life;
- Offering of an all embracing curriculum;
- Creation of a loving and caring environment.

At Samaritan College it is expressed through the:

- Development of quality relationships;
- Provision of satisfying learning;
- Provision of a stable environment where learning can occur;
- Establishment of an effective care network;
- Motto, *Faith, Wisdom, Compassion.*

## UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS, PHILOSOPHY & RATIONALE

**At Samaritan College we acknowledge the principles of Pastoral Care are based on the:**

- Loving concern God has always shown for God's people;
- Value and uniqueness of the individual person created in the image of God;
- Recognition of the role of each member of the College community is to contribute to its development and is an ongoing process;
- Understanding the Catholic school is committed to the development of the whole person;
- Gospel Values of the dignity of each person, love, justice, community, reconciliation and celebration; involves hospitality, compassion and forgiveness;
- Foundations of a caring environment and is integrated throughout the College curriculum and all procedures.

## PURPOSES / AIMS

**Through the application of this policy, Samaritan College will:**

- Develop a happy, caring environment in which to learn;
- Challenge and support growth in the learning, teaching and working environment;
- Provide learning experiences which are relevant, challenging, engaging and positive to the self esteem of the students;
- Encourage self discipline, responsibility, initiative, creativity, leadership and a sense of achievement;
- Develop quality relationships among staff, students, parents, caregivers, parish and wider community;
- Ensure these relationships are based on respect, sincerity, acceptance, trust and hope.

## GUIDELINES & PROCEDURE

**In support of this policy Samaritan College will:**

- Develop an environment of pastoral care and wellbeing which embraces all members of the College community;
- Create and maintain a stimulating learning environment which motivates students to experience care and support to achieve their full potential as a participating and contributing member of the College community;
- Implement pastoral care programs which address the 'life' needs of students;
- Develop effective networks of care;
- Develop links with the wider community;
- Respect and support diverse family structures and integrate cross-cultural issues;
- Create a positive nurturing environment which encourages effective relationships between school community members.
- Nurture leadership among the school community, providing opportunities to develop skills at appropriate levels.

**The Co Principals will:**

- See Pastoral Care as an essential component of their role;
- Develop a shared vision and student centred pastoral care structures;
- Foster high quality interpersonal relationships;
- Promote and maintain open and honest communication throughout the school community;
- Provide opportunities for liturgical celebrations and assemblies;
- Develop coordinated and supportive organisational and administrative structures;
- Exercise stewardship of resources to maximise opportunities for the benefit of individuals;
- Enable an environment for learning by providing the space and opportunities for the on-going development of pastoral care;

- Establish clear role definitions for staff, just discipline procedures, crisis support and effective communication channels;
- Provide access to a range of support services on a needs basis.

**The Staff will:**

- Understand the relationship between pastoral care, teaching and the wellbeing of students;
- See pastoral care as an essential component of their role;
- Recognise the modelling good relationships is at the heart of their role;
- Develop productive relationships with students and members of the College and wider community;
- Develop teaching programs and practices which engage each student in their learning;
- Uphold and sustain policies and practices which foster mutual respect, responsibility and service to the College community;
- Provide opportunities for each student to find a niche;
- Utilise comprehensive and inclusive approaches to teaching and learning;
- Provide fair and just assessment;
- Recognise individual efforts and achievements and encourage tolerance and self worth.

**The Students will:**

- Respect and support the rights of other students, staff and all members of the College community;
- Work cooperatively to achieve to the best of their ability and potential;
- Be welcoming and inclusive; compassionate and forgiving in their relationships with others.

**The Parents/Caregivers will:**

- Actively encourage their children to respect and support the rights of others in the light of Gospel values;
- Become actively involved as the primary educators of and most important role models for their children in their learning, wellbeing and development;
- Work in partnership with the College and staff;
- Support a positive climate of learning, care and forgiveness.

**The College Board will:**

- Support the pastoral care program;
- Participate in the development, implementation and review of this policy.

<b>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS</b>
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- SACCS Pastoral Care Policy (2008)
- Samaritan College Respectful Relationships (Responsible Behaviours) Policy
- Samaritan College Respectful Relationships (Anti Bullying) Policy
- Samaritan College Vision Statement
- Samaritan College Student Diary
- Samaritan College Staff Handbook
- Samaritan College Newsletter and Website

**ADMINISTRATION**

This policy will be reviewed triennially by the College, unless otherwise required.

Signed: .....

Co Principal

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Co Principal

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Chair of College Board

Date: .....

Ratified and Implemented

Review Date: Term ..... 20.....