



## ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC SCHOOL PASTORAL CARE POLICY

St. Mary of the Angels recognises that parents are the first and foremost educators of their children. Therefore, it is imperative that staff respect this right and together with parents, work harmoniously for the development of each child to his/her full potential; that is religious, moral, social, intellectual and physical.

To achieve this within a caring environment there must be:

- a sense of empathy
- a capacity to listen
- a sense of fun and humour
- the presence of encouragement
- a model of enthusiasm for learning
- a sense of justice

The Religious Education Program provides the philosophical foundation for the pastoral care of students. It reflects the broad Christian ethos of individual caring for and respecting one another. It is the daily lived experience of being part of a school community that exemplifies pastoral care at St. Mary of the Angels.

Our Pastoral Care Policy aims:

- to create a climate of affirmation
- to ensure that each student feels part of a group within the school community and to build up a trusting relationship with others
- to facilitate communication between teachers, students and their families
- to foster the ability of the student to form relationships with others
- to provide for the development of the whole child – spiritually, physically, emotionally, morally, socially and academically
- to build up a child's self-esteem and encourage self-discipline
- to encourage parental involvement within the school and within parent organisations
- to support the School Mission Statement and address the challenges outlined in the pastoral letter "Catholic Schools at a Crossroads".

The caring philosophy is reflected through all the happenings of the school such as celebration days, assemblies, birthdays, student leadership, sacramental programs, excursions, sport, inter-school visits, discipline, assessments and a curriculum which caters for the needs of all the students.

At St. Mary of the Angels, pastoral care is considered a community responsibility and therefore all members of the community are encouraged to care for each other. The services of Centacare are accessed through the school principal when counselling is required for staff, students or families.

St. Paul's description on love epitomizes pastoral care as we would see it at St. Mary of the Angels.

***"Love is always patient and kind, it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes."***

*1 Cor 13:4-7*