

# PASTORAL CARE IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**Scope:** This policy applies to all staff employed in Catholic schools, colleges, kindergartens and outside school hours care centres conducted by Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton (referred to as Catholic Education in the document).

## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

All Catholic schools, colleges and services (hereafter referred to as Catholic schools) in the Diocese of Rockhampton provide a supportive environment that caters for the needs of all students. Pastoral care encourages self-discipline according to Gospel values, and also promotes a sense of responsibility appropriate to developmental stages. While the responsibility for Pastoral Care will be shared by all members of the school community, the School Board will develop appropriate guidelines.

## 2. DESCRIPTION

Catholic Education promotes the dignity of all people. Pastoral Care in Catholic schools should be promoted as a means of encouraging all members of the school community to treat one another with dignity and respect.

Pastoral Care involves the creation of an environment where the spiritual, social, physical and emotional needs of individuals, groups within the school community and the whole school community are addressed.

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. A school's Pastoral Care guidelines will flow from the Diocesan Policy and the school's Mission Statement.
2. Guidance will come from the School Board in consultation with the school's Leadership Team and members of the school community.
3. Schools should consider the formation of a School Pastoral Care Team to support the formation and implementation of Pastoral Care within the school community. Teams could include: Ordained Ministers, Campus Ministers and Staff with Positions of Middle Leadership, Members of school/ Administration Leadership Teams, Teachers, Parents, Counsellors and Student Council members.
4. Pastoral Care will endeavour to address the needs of the school community (staff, students and parents).
5. Pastoral Care will include liturgical celebrations and when priests are available, the celebration of appropriate Sacraments.



#### 4. REFLECTION MATERIAL

##### RESOURCES

- James Norman (2004) *At the Heart of Education: school chaplaincy and pastoral care* Dublin, Veritas
- Congregation for Catholic Education (1998) *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium* St Pauls Publication
- Congregation for Catholic Education (1976) *The Catholic School* St Paul Publication
- Congregation for Catholic Education (1988) *The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School* St Paul Publications
- Catholic Education Commission (2003) *Guidelines for Pastoral Care in Catholic Schools* New South Wales
- Catholic Education Office (2007) *Pastoral Care – Guidelines for Catholic Schools* Sydney
- Catholic Education Office (2007) *Framework for the Development of Pastoral Care in Catholic Schools* Western Australia