

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School



PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Rationale

At St. Francis Xavier Catholic School, Ignatian Spirituality is the guiding principle which underpins pastoral care within our school. Staff members are aware of and implement the Pastoral Care Policy in every facet of our school community life. This enables the seeds of religious faith and commitment to be nurtured in each individual, so that they may recognize and respond to Christ as the model of human life. A concern for people and the atmosphere of family is promoted within the school. It is the belief of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School that Pastoral Care is developing empathetic relationships, so that the people in the school community are able to participate in productive partnerships.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School mission Statement

ST FRANCIS XAVIER
RUNAWAY BAY
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

St Francis Xavier School is a Catholic school following in the Ignatian tradition. St Francis was a man of faith and courage who inspired love and whose mission was to bring Jesus to the world. As patron he is a shining light and example for how we seek and find God in all things. Our hope is that our children will become more loving in their relationships with others, more courageous when faced with making choices in life, and more serving in their life style, as was our patron St Francis Xavier.

God Centred • Spiritual • Generous

BE *Seeking and finding God in all things*

Faith Driven
Jesus lives in and through us

- Living the Gospel pastorally through our actions and teachings
- Prizing our Catholic teaching, story, rituals and symbols
- Respecting and valuing one another and our inclusive relationships

FOCUS *Children are our future*

Child Centred
All children are at the heart

- Our children, empowered to succeed
- Our children, developing integrity, endurance and skills
- Our children, transforming their communities

LEAD *Shining eyes light the way*

Quality Education
Quality learning is authentic, deep and life lasting

- Contemporary learning - personal, innovative and future focused
- Inspirational teaching - work of love, committed and enthusiastic
- School environment - rich, varied and inviting

DEVELOP *A great place to belong*

Culture and Spirit
Our school is a safe and peaceful place

- We welcome, we care and support, we celebrate and worship
- We cultivate a sense of belonging and nurture our school family
- We are proud of who we are and what we do

NURTURE

Growth
One step at a time

- Uniqueness is valued
- Emotional wellbeing is treasured
- Milestones are celebrated

Let the journey begin

Compassionate • Responsible • Just • Grateful

Team Member • Reflective • Cultivator of Virtue

Respectful • Committed • Helpful • Loving

A definition:

Pastoral care is the integration of the academic, social and religious dimensions of schools energy so that an atmosphere of care prevails within the school community. Pastoral care is an expression of the philosophy and vision of the school.

K. Treston

Roles and Responsibilities

Leadership Team

- Foster and promote the Ignatian way
- Accept responsibility for promoting and modeling care and concern for the whole community
- Promote a belonging identity and a sense of security through MJR – Making Jesus Real
- Promote the Prayer Life and Worship of the school community
- Provide opportunities for students, parents, staff and the wider community to worship together
- Encourage the celebration of special occasions and achievements of the whole school community
- Promote a culture of affirmation and recognition of students, parents and staff
- Continue to strengthen links with the parish
- Endeavour to empower parents in their role as prime faith educators
- Communicate with the whole community in relation to the support structures and pastoral care programs available
- Create opportunities for collaboration between school, family and the wider community
- Provide opportunities for parents to be actively involved in the life of the school
- Provide orientation to all new parents and children
- Provide professional development opportunities for parents
- Supports staff and school families in time of illness and grief
- Ensure parent access to a partnership in education
- Respond to the personal and professional needs of staff
- Provide access to support networks for all members of the school community
- Review and evaluate regularly the implementation of the pastoral care policy and practices
- Induct new and beginning staff members in the Pastoral Care Policy and practices
- Ensure ongoing professional development of all staff in the Pastoral Care Policy and practices
- Support the collaborative participation of staff in teams
- Ensure the education and implementation of all Brisbane Catholic Education Office (BCEO) legislative requirements
- Support and follow the Brisbane Catholic Education Office (BCEO) Code of Conduct policy

Staff:

- Foster and promote the Ignatian way
- Promote a belonging identity and a sense of security through MJR – Making Jesus Real
- Plan and implement effective learning experiences which engage students in learning
- Provide quality learning experiences that foster personal growth
- Value individual differences of students and the inclusion of students with special needs
- Provide opportunities for students to access the Guidance Counsellor

- Monitor and assess student academic and social development and plan teaching and learning experiences accordingly
- Ensure that prayer is an integral part of classroom life
- Provide opportunities for students to develop life and leadership skills through a range of programs, incursions and excursions
- Encourage students to consider the needs of the wider community
- Provide a safe, positive classroom environment where children are encouraged to express themselves appropriately, listen to one another and respect differences
- Provide opportunities for students to develop a respect for and understanding of Indigenous (Kombumerri Saltwater) people and different cultures
- Ensure the implementation of the Behaviour Teaching and Learning System and Bullying No Way Policy
- Provide orientation and support for beginning students
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in assemblies, liturgies and celebrations of special events
- Promote a culture of affirmation and recognition through Virtues awards, Sporting , Cultural and Leadership awards including extra curricular achievements
- Provide support to students and families through referrals to professional agencies
- Promote the health and wellbeing of students
- Provide students with guidelines for using the internet safely and responsibly through the implementation of the school Internet Contract
- Develop and enjoy positive and supportive staff relations
- Provide support for beginning teachers or new staff to our school
- Welcome and support relief staff and provide information for individual class relief packs
- Support and adhere to policies and routines
- Attend all staff meetings and professional development provided

Parish Priest

- Provides pastoral leadership and spiritual guidance for the whole school community
- Supportive of and involved in the liturgical life of the school
- Works closely with the AP-RE on matters which relates to Prayer Life and Worship
- Engages with students using topics which help to facilitate spiritual and moral growth
- Liaises with the School Leadership Team on parish and school matters

Parents / Care Givers

- Support the Pastoral Care initiatives in the school
- As prime faith educators, parents are expected to engage in and support the Prayer Life and Worship of the school
- Support school policies and routines
- Communicate openly and professionally with staff about the needs and development of their child
- Support the Catholic ethos of St Francis Xavier School
- Contribute positively to the life of the school
- Support Family/ Parish masses
- Attend Parent Information nights, Parent Teacher interviews
- Support the St Francis Xavier Parents and Friends Association

Students

- Grow to be W.E.S.T. people – **W**elcoming, **E**ncouraging, able to say **S**orry and give **T**hanks
- Participate in the Pastoral Care initiatives of the school
- Engage in and participate in class and school Prayer and Worship
- Support and follow school policies and routines
- Communicate openly and honestly with staff about their needs and concerns
- Participate in Family/ Parish masses
- Contribute to a safe, positive classroom environment
- Participate to the best of their ability in the learning experiences available to them
- Develop a respect for and understanding of Indigenous (Kombumerri Saltwater) people, different cultures and students with special needs

Supporting Policies and Documents:

School Mission Statement
Brisbane Catholic Education Religious Education Curriculum P - 12
Religious Life of the School Document
SFX Religious Education Policy
Sacramental Policy of Archdiocesan of Brisbane
Behaviour Teaching and Learning System
Bullying at SFX - No Way! Policy
Homework Policy and Procedures
Uniform Policy
SFX Induction Policy
Brisbane Catholic Education Child Protection Guidelines
Workplace Health and Safety Policy
Brisbane Catholic Education Workplace Bullying and Harassment Policy
Brisbane Catholic Education Code of Conduct
Managing Conflict – Policy and Procedures

Supporting Programs:

Making Jesus Real (MJR)
Rainbows for All God's Children
Virtues Program
Conflict Resolution Program incorporating Peer Mediator Training & Cyber Safety
Feel Safe Program
Positive Approaches to Life Situations (PALS)
Sustainability Groups
Various Social Skills programs
Personal & Social Development Education
Guidelines
Student Support Process
Contact Parents