



# ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL LAURIETON DIOCESE OF LISMORE

## Pastoral Care Policy

<b>Policy Number:</b>	PC.1.2
<b>Status:</b>	Ratified
<b>Date Issued:</b>	December 2014
<b>Evaluation and Review:</b>	December 2019
<b>Policy Contact Officer:</b>	School Principal – David Hughes
<b>Related Documentation:</b>	

**Rationale:**

St Joseph's aims to provide a happy and safe environment for all with a focus on respect, justice, equality, love and forgiveness.

The ultimate aim is to develop self-reflection in all children by focusing on and promoting restorative justice.

Restorative Justice is based on the belief that when relationships are harmed we must work with the students, teachers and parents involved to restore those relationships. Restorative measures assist students to learn from their mistakes, reconcile their differences and resolve problems with others.

**Scope:** Pastoral care is the integration of the academic, social and religious dimensions of a school's ethos so that an atmosphere of care prevails within the school community. Each person of the school community – staff, students, parents and members of our wider parish community, is invited to become more fully human.

**Principles:**

The aim of Restorative Practice is to create an ethos of respect, inclusion, accountability and responsibility. It seeks to build positive relationships in the school community, while at the same time, encouraging individual self-efficacy, resilience and personal accountability for behaviour.

Restorative Justice Practices will inform our approach to discipline at St Joseph's Primary School Laurieton. The focus is on relationships and repairing the harm done to relationships through wrongdoing.

We take our approach from the model of Jesus:

- The word Jesus uses most often in the Gospels is ***"Listen!"***
- Secondly, whenever Jesus heals someone in the Gospels, he always gives the individual encouragement and a challenge to change their life in a positive way. ***e.g. "Go now and sin no more."***

Our approach is inspired by the philosophy and practices of Restorative Justice, which puts repairing harm done to relationships and people over and above the need to assign blame and dispense punishment.

**Procedures:**

Pastoral Care is love in action and, as such, underpins the school's policy and curriculum statements, procedures and organisational structures. It brings the school's vision to life in a practical and tangible manner. It is the basis from which discipline policy and strategies grow.

**For the Offender**

**1 What did you do?**

**Hold people accountable**

**2 How did you feel?**

**3 Who has your behaviour affected?**

**Talk about the harm**

**4 How has this affected you?**

**5 What will make this better?**

**and to seek restitution**

**6 What will you do next time you meet this/a similar situation?**

**Challenge the student as Jesus did**

**7 What do you agree should happen if you don't live up to what we have just agreed to?**

**For the Offendee**

1 How did you feel when.....?

2 How have you been hurt?

3 What has upset you the most?

4 What will help you to feel better?

Programs:

We recognise and value the importance of Religious Education as enriching our pastoral care and the vibrant spirituality which energises the whole school program. Programs at St Joseph's which enhance pastoral care include:

- Building positive relationships with teachers, parents and children
- Restorative Justice practices
- Religious Education including making Jesus Real
- Peer Support and anti-bullying programs
- Kinder buddy program
- PDH programs with a focus on values, resilience and protective behaviours
- Parent Assembly
- Recognition of the individual through awards including Spirit of Jesus awards
- Professional Counselling including Sand Play N/A
- Student Support Teacher

- Seasons for Growth
- Establishment of lunchtime clubs
- Companions in the Community program for Year 4
- Sporting Programs and representative teams
- School excursions and camps
- Religious retreats eg. Stage 3 Leadership, sacramental, diocesan experiences - Incitare, Exuro, Accendere, Staff Proclaim
- School public speaking and performance opportunities
- Establishment of the Wellbeing Team
- Better Together initiatives
- School psychologist programs

**PASTORAL PROGRAMS:**

Pastoral Care endeavours to discern the life needs of students and to provide them with every opportunity to value themselves and to experience well being.

The provision of pastoral programs represents a specific and planned means of achieving this ideal. Such provision may include programs for self esteem, social relationships, moral development, vocational awareness, sexuality and health and personal safety. Drug awareness programs and programs dealing with grief and loss also should be included in a school's pastoral curriculum.

The complexity and increasing tensions of family and community life require that pastoral programs be attentive to the changing needs of students, and to the unique needs of individual students. Appraisal of priorities needs to be ongoing and based on good communication among teachers, students and their families.

School Liaison Officer: