

MATER DEI PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Pastoral care is the support given to students for their development as a person. It relates to the total care of students and involves tending to both the academic and non-academic needs of students including spiritual, emotional and social wellbeing.

Pastoral care recognises the overriding principle of acting in the best interests of the child.

Mater Dei School is committed to providing a safe, supportive and social environment where students feel nurtured as they learn.

To this end we have developed, and continue to develop, a comprehensive range of pastoral care policies and procedures that are designed to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of our students in areas such as:

- independence;
- resilience;
- social awareness;
- personal responsibility;
- healthy living;
- healthy minds;
- empathy and emotional intelligence; and
- cultural awareness.

KEY PASTORAL CARE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Faith

Mater Dei is a co-educational Catholic Congregational school located in the Wollongong Diocese under the auspices of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan whose ethos is based on the Rule of St Benedict. Our culture is one of peace, prayer, service, hospitality and stewardship. Mater Dei offers an education that is underpinned by Good Samaritan values. Mater Dei follows the principles outlined in the Good Samaritan Education FORMATION FOR MISSION Handbook and the Good Samaritan Schools Teaching and Learning Framework to guide its faith formation.

Teaching and Learning

Quality teaching and learning strategies responsive to the individual learning needs of students are addressed at school. By engaging students in this way, they are encouraged to become reflective, independent learners who accept personal responsibility for their participation in school whilst disciplining themselves.

Student Welfare and Safety

Mater Dei School has implemented a comprehensive workplace health and safety program and a student care program designed to ensure the ongoing safety and welfare of students. Key policies and procedures include those relating to:

- Child Protection;
- Student Supervision;
- Managing Student Health;
- Managing Student Behaviour;
- Students with Disabilities;
- Managing Extra Educational Opportunities;
- Building and Grounds Maintenance;
- School Security; and
- Critical Incident Management.

Students with Disabilities and Special Needs

Mater Dei School has implemented detailed policies and procedures for managing students with disabilities and special needs. Refer to our:

- Disability Discrimination Policy; and
- Special Needs Policy

In addition to this Mater Dei provides Music Therapy opportunities for identified students, a variety of Playground Group activities and a Nurturing Independence Program for parents/guardians.

Leadership

The Mater Dei student leadership model provides school leaders with an active, responsible role that allows them to further develop their leadership skills through practice and mentorship from staff, and provides opportunities for positive role modelling for all other students at Mater Dei.

Counselling

Counselling is an important part of a student's development and allows care givers to address the needs of students on a one on one basis.

Mater Dei students are encouraged to talk to the school psychologist, in accordance with our Counselling Services (Student) Policy.

PERSONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

All teachers and staff at Mater Dei School are responsible for pastoral care, and for administering pastoral care in all classes and extra-curricular activities.

In addition we have created a Pastoral Care Team that is responsible for ensuring the proper ongoing administration of pastoral care services and the school.

Our current Pastoral Care Team is:

Assistant Principal – Sam Giles

Leader of Pastoral Care – Kylee Laugesen

School Psychologist – Caroline Ooi

Pastoral Care Chaplin – Sr Jeanie Heininger

Implementation

Pastoral care within the school is implemented through a combination of:

- effective policies and procedures;
- staff training in student welfare, mental health and spiritual wellbeing;
- effective incident notification procedures; and
- allocation of the overall responsibility for the effective implementation of pastoral care to a senior staff member.

RELATED POLICIES/STATEMENTS

Mater Dei Disability Discrimination Policy

Mater Dei Special Needs Policy

Mater Dei Counselling Services (Student) Policy

Mater Dei Student Duty of Care Policy

Good Samaritan Education FORMATION FOR MISSION Handbook

Good Samaritan Schools Teaching and Learning Framework

Mater Dei Student Leadership Policy

Mater Dei Child Protection Compliance Policy

Mater Dei Child Protection – Abuse, Grooming & Neglect Identification & Initial Notification Policy

Mater Dei Child Protection – Detecting, Reporting and Addressing Grooming Behaviours Policy

Mater Dei Child Protection – Mandatory Reporting of Abuse & Neglect Policy

Mater Dei Child Protection – Reportable Conduct of Staff, Volunteers and Others Policy

Mater Dei Child Protection – Working with Children Check Policy

Mater Dei Child Protection – Child Safety Code of Conduct

Mater Dei Child Protection – Commitment to Child Safety

Mater Dei Supervision and Inspection (PLAYGROUND) Guidelines

Mater Dei Supervision (General) Guidelines

Mater Dei Medical Health Care Plans

Mater Dei Anaphylactic Shock Management Policy and Procedures

Mater Dei Asthma Management Policy and Procedures

Mater Dei Seizure Management Policy and Procedures

Mater Dei Diabetes Management Policy and Procedures

Mater Dei Student Mobility Management Policy and Procedures

Mater Dei First Aid Policy

Mater Dei Medication Policy

Mater Dei Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures

Mater Dei Excursion, Incursion, Inclusion and community Access Opportunity Policy

Mater Dei Excursion, Incursion, Inclusion and community Access Opportunity Policy – Regular Off campus Activities

Mater Dei School Premises and Buildings Compliance Policy

Mater Dei Security (Physical) Policy

Mater Dei Critical Incident (Emergency Situations) Response Policy

Approved at Leadership Team YES / NO / NA	Signed	Date
Approved at Board YES / NO / NA	Signed	Date
Staff Briefed YES / NO	Signed	Date
Review Date December 2018		