



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY, ASCOT VALE WELLBEING POLICY

July 2016

RATIONALE:

St Mary's School has a strong commitment to child safety as is reflected in our Vision Statement: *"Each child has the right to feel happy, safe and valued"*. We continually strive to ensure that every child is safe from harm including all forms of abuse. We exercise zero tolerance to abuse.

We believe at St. Mary's that Pastoral Care:

- Is a reflection of the teaching of the Gospels;
- Permeates all facets of our school community;
- Involves each member of staff as a pastoral care person;
- Is not just about supporting those in crisis – it is for all people enabling each individual to develop and grow;
- Is evidenced in all areas of our curriculum, discipline policy, parent/teacher meetings and Religious Education; and
- Is alive when we join together in prayer and celebration.

Therefore:

- The Parish Priest, Principal and staff are committed to the total well-being of the individual.
- The staff endeavour to assist in the personal growth of the individual and their worth as persons and to develop skills in building and maintaining meaningful relationships.
- The staff creates a caring environment within the school community, as well as each child's individual worth and contribution.
- The staff endeavour to help each individual grow in knowledge of themselves and their relationship with God.
- At all times the staff promote relationships based on compassion and justice where the rights of all members of the school community are respected.

Pastoral Care issues and concerns of the school community of St. Mary's are addressed through the following initiatives:

- Religious Education Programme;
- School-based Sacramental Programmes;
- Seasons – a support programme for children in grief;
- Weekly school liturgies and Paraliturgies each term;
- Pontifical Mission Effort;
- Discipline Policy;
- New arrivals Programme;
- Transition Programme;
- Bounce Back;
- English as a Second Language Programme;

- Multi-Age Tutoring;
- Special Education;
- Perceptual Motor Programme;
- Personal Safety Programme;
- Life Education Programme;
- Parental Involvement; and
- Sports Teams.

Within the Pastoral Care Programme we believe that the following concerns need to be addressed:

- Self-esteem;
- Communication;
- Parent/teacher relations;
- Health, hygiene and diet;
- Decision making;
- Cross age involvement;
- Listening to children;
- Social justice;
- Accepting differences;
- Independence;
- Self-responsibility;
- Bullying;
- Grief; and
- Equal opportunity.

EVALUATION:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four year review cycle.