Pastoral Care Policy

At G.S.C.C. we believe:

- An authentic Catholic school is founded on the person of Jesus Christ and reflects the Gospel teachings, especially in relation to faith, hope, love, forgiveness, justice and freedom.
- An authentic Catholic school reflects the love of God within its community.
- All individuals within our community bring gifts to our shared journey.
- Every individual is worthy of respect and should be treated with dignity.
- Each person is on a life-long journey which is a continuous process which reaches beyond schooling.

Therefore we will

- Design and implement structures that reflect and allow our community to experience the Gospel teachings especially faith, hope, love, forgiveness, justice and freedom.
- Create defined roles for all members of our community.
- Establish student management procedures which help students value themselves and experience well-being.
- Foster communication with the wider community, especially parents, businesses, local parishes and ex-students.
- Foster an environment where in individual rights and responsibilities can be acknowledged and respected.
- Design and implement a Pastoral Care programme which aims at developing each person to their potential: spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and socially.
Student Management Procedures

In accordance with the Pastoral care policy provisions, G.S.C.C aims to:

- Establish student management procedures which empower students to value themselves and to experience well-being and success
- Foster an environment wherein individual rights, responsibilities and talents can be acknowledged and respected
- Operate under the Child Protection Code of Professional Standards for Employees in Catholic Schools

Affirmations

“We will acknowledge the individuality of all members of our community and value the gifts they bring with them to our shared journey. All members of our community are encouraged to explore their potential and strive for personal excellence.” (College Mission Statement) Therefore it is our intention to affirm individual achievements and efforts through:

- Establishing positive relationships with all students
- Structuring Pastoral Care classes vertically and in the House system to promote and support House spirit and relationships across year levels.
- Structuring Pastoral Care classes horizontally to cater for needs of specific year groups.
- Using the diary to acknowledge student achievement
- Celebration of student achievements and talents at year, house and school assemblies
- Highlighting student achievements in college publications e.g newsletter / magazine
- Creation of opportunities for students to nurture and develop talents at liturgies, assemblies, performance nights and exhibitions
- The issuing of awards in accordance with KLA and College policies
- Regular constructive feedback at Parent, Teacher, Student Interviews and in Semester reports
- Guidance and counselling to make informed decisions throughout their school careers.
- Provision of a broad curriculum to expose students to a holistic education

Modifications

Behaviour modification at G.S.C.C reflects our belief that students are at various stages on a life long journey and it is our role to help them become responsible and self-disciplined. It is our intention to address behaviours that deviate from the guidelines published in the College diary through:

- Clearly outlining class and whole school behaviour expectations to students
- Communicating to students in a non-confrontational way, how their behaviour deviates from the school guidelines for behaviour.
- Exploring circumstances / seeking background information that may have contributed to the behaviour
- Using the student diary to record and communicate inappropriate behaviours.
- Teachers individually using of a variety of strategies appropriate to the individual student’s behaviour
- Collaboration with relevant personnel in the College to manage the behaviour.
- The application of procedural fairness in all situations
• The use of corporal punishment is expressly forbidden at this College or in the education system.
• Following CEO guidelines in “Pastoral Care of students in Catholic Schools”

**Pastoral Care Programme**

In accordance with CEO “Pastoral Care of students in Catholic Schools” policy. “Pastoral programs represent a specific and planned means of helping students to value themselves and to experience well-being.” The college, therefore, provides opportunities to ensure that each person is developed to their potential: spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

The pastoral care programme at Good Samaritan Catholic College is designed with vertical house experiences combined with year level structured lessons designed to meet the specific needs of students at that level.

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Roles and Responsibilities

The Pastoral Care System is exercised through the Mission and vision of Good Samaritan Catholic College, its Executive Team, Staff, Clergy and parents. Under the guidance of the Year and House Pastoral Care Coordinators, with support of all staff members, this Vision is enlivened by:

1. The Gospel Values that are reflected in the compassion of the Good Samaritan Story.
2. The Pastoral Care Policy of the Sydney Catholic Education Office.
3. The future development of a Pastoral Care Policy and Programmes of Good Samaritan Catholic College.

Pastoral Care Teachers

Aside from daily administrative tasks, Pastoral Care Teachers are the first link in the chain of pastoral care for the students. The Pastoral Care Teachers encourage a healthy spirit of compassion within their group. They recognise the achievements of the group and individual students, as well as identifying students who may require special assistance. Regular contact with their Year Coordinator is maintained to ensure that all concerned are aware of actions taken in relation to individual students.

They display their care for their pastoral class by:

♦ Supporting students by listening and advising.
♦ Encouraging students to develop self-discipline.
♦ Being aware of students’ progress.
♦ Dealing with pastoral and disciplinary matters appropriately.
♦ Maintaining contact with students’ parents through the appropriate means available to them.

Year Coordinators

The Year Coordinators contribute to the development of the College as a faith community. They assist with the nurturing of positive human relations in the College community. They develop cohesion within the College community thus contributing to the effective leadership and administration of the College. They are responsible for the overall growth and development of all students in their care.

They achieve this by:

♦ Dealing with students individually and as a group at assemblies, in a positive and growth-promoting manner, at all times displaying respect for the individual.
♦ Ensuring that new students to the College are made to feel welcome and settle easily into the College.
♦ Maintaining regular contact with and general monitoring of all students, especially those with special needs or at risk.
♦ Referring students with special needs to the appropriate professional contacts.
♦ Keeping in contact with Pastoral Care Teachers to ensure consistency and fairness throughout the College.
College Counsellor

The role of the College counsellor is a pastoral one which serves the whole of the Good Samaritan Community.

The College counsellors, in conjunction with the College executive, Year Co-ordinator and pastoral care teachers aim to provide a climate that promotes a friendly and respectful relationship between staff, students and parents, based on respect for individuals and the need for self discipline.

The basis of this ministry is the Christian notion of “seeing the face of Jesus in everyone”. The ministry (role) is evolving in its nature and so must remain open to change, in order to meet new needs.

Community

In support of the CEO Vision and Mission Statement (2005) the college seeks to establish strong ties with the community beyond Good Samaritan Catholic College. As part of the college’s commitment to our students we work towards strengthening the following relationships:

♦ Local church and other educational agencies
♦ The active partnership between home, parish, school and community
♦ The partnership between teachers, parents, clergy and the wider community
♦ Liaison with relevant members of the local community – businesses, employment opportunities and tertiary advice.

The college works towards these aims through:

♦ Availability of staff to parents
♦ Promotion of needs within the community
♦ Building a relationship with relevant local agencies
♦ Encouraging close ties with local parishes, priests and feeder schools.

Reference

In all aspects of Pastoral Care at Good Samaritan Catholic College reference is made to the following documents:

♦ College Mission Statement
♦ “Sydney Catholic Schools – Towards 2010” CEO Sydney 2005
♦ “Pastoral care of students in Catholic schools” CEO Sydney 2003
♦ Guidelines for Resolving Concerns and Complaints at Schools
PRINCIPAL ACKNOWLEDGES STUDENTS WHO ACHIEVE THE GOLD AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT AND EFFORT

YEAR COORDINATORS ACKNOWLEDGE STUDENTS WITH BRONZE AWARD AND TRACK STUDENTS

PASTORAL CARE AND KLA TEACHERS ACKNOWLEDGE STUDENT EFFORT AND ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH MERIT AWARDS

PC AND KLA TEACHERS ACKNOWLEDGE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH THE COLLEGE DIARY.

STUDENT

STUDENTS PASTORAL CARE/SUBJECT TEACHER

YEAR COORDINATOR

COUNSELLOR

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

THE PRINCIPAL

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ACKNOWLEDGES STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENT AND EFFORT THROUGH PRESENTATION OF SILVER AWARDS

KLA COORDINATOR