

BETHLEHEM COLLEGE PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Philosophy:

School based pastoral care refers to the total care of the student. "Pastoral care" recognises the dignity of the person and is reflected in both the process and attitude with which it is implemented. In its Vision Statement for the Archdiocese of Sydney, the SACS Board places importance on "education as a search for personal meaning" and envisages Catholic Schools as "living faith communities" which are invited to examine critically their policy and practice of pastoral care.

At the heart of the school is a pastoral care system, in which all teachers are expected to accept responsibilities for the development of quality relationships, the provisions of satisfying learning experiences and the establishment of an effective care network both in and beyond the classroom.

Guidelines:

1. There are two networks within the school which aim to support teachers in their pastoral responsibilities.
 - The first consists of the Homeroom Teacher, who should be the first point of contact, and the Stage Co-ordinator.
 - The second consists of classroom teachers supported by Studies Co-ordinators.
2. The College Discipline Policy and the Procedures Document clearly details staff, students' and parents' rights and responsibilities in this area.
3. In cases where students need extra care then the Stage Co-ordinator in consultation with the Assistant Principal or Principal, will make arrangements for the student to see a school counsellor or arrange outside counselling following contact with parents.
4. In cases where concerns about pastoral care of students involves abuse, the procedures of the Child Protection Act must be followed. Procedures to be followed are contained in the Bethlehem College Child Protection and Procedures. The Principal instigates the process following notification.
5. Stage Coordinators will meet regularly to discuss pastoral care programs at their year level and the care of students.
6. The induction of new staff will include an introduction to the Pastoral Care Policy.