

ORANA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is the practice of looking after the personal and social wellbeing of others. It is the responsibility of all staff, with members contributing in appropriate ways, according to their roles and responsibilities.

Elements of Pastoral Care

1.Environment

The environment at Orana is infused with the Catholic notion of Pastoral Care as we see in the following...

1.1Life of a Faith

- *Prayer, liturgy, celebration and participation in the Sacraments
- *Reflection of values of the Sacraments in school policies and practices e.g. acceptance, forgiveness and nourishment
- *Church traditions (feast days...)
- *School celebrations

1.2Community Dimensions

- *Interpersonal relationships within the school community
- *Relationships with clergy, religious orders, parent community and past students
- *Reflection of the schools' mission statement and motto
- *Relevant cultural aspects
- *Awareness and support of those who are alienated or grieving

1.3Administrative Sector

- *Style of leadership
- *Support for students as they move from one stage of schooling to another
- *Pastoral care of staff (practical support when required plus make suitable resources available)
- *Social Worker on staff (provide counseling when required plus additional support)
- *Strategic management plan involving consultation, involvement, participation and ownership;
- *All school personnel are conversant with the schools' Pastoral Care policies and practices

2.Policy and Practice

The policies and practices of Orana endeavors to enhance the dignity of the human person. Our policies reflect the principals of Pastoral Care. For example...

STUDENT

- *student management
- *duty of care
- *student leadership
- *acceptable use (computer) policy
- *sacramental program

ADMINISTRATION

- *allocation of resources
- *enrolment policies
- *uniform requirements and standards
- *crisis management
- *medication policy

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

- *reporting and communication
- *parental involvement
- *prayer opportunities
- * drug awareness

SCHOOL PERSONNEL

- *employment, professional and faith development
- *professional development of teachers in pastoral care
- *occupational health and safety

3.CURRICULUM

At present we feel that Orana is addressing the following issues:

3.1Needs of all students

- inclusion of the PATHS program & programs run by Orana's social worker
- class circle time & class meetings
- school Buddy system
- “support” teacher employed
- grouping in class
- collaborative strategies
- parent involvement
- meeting needs as they arrive-research analysis based daily planning
- curriculum adjustment plans
- individual education plans
- interest in pastoral care for the welfare of our students
- timetabling to cater for the learning styles and personal needs of all children
- independent work strategies to develop all children to be self motivated and confident life long learners
- intervention plans

3.2Assessment, evaluation and reporting

- meetings between teacher, parent and student
- communication with parents when required
- self-assessment and parent comments of home observations
- open classes
- benchmarks to ensure we have catered to the educational needs of the children
- literacy net, a standardized diagnostic tool to ensure we have recognized all at risk children
- incorporation of a variety of tools to have sound evidence to support assessment
- intervention plans
- parent teacher evenings to present curriculum and philosophy

3.3Based on Catholic Social Justice Principles

- rights of all children to an education in an environment of personal growth
- open to social issues affecting our communities
- current affairs
- admission to all students (those with disabilities, different religion) as per Orana's enrolment policy

4.STAFF SUPPORT

As staff we will endeavour to:

- *provide induction for new staff
- *provide opportunities for staff prayer
- *celebrate special events e.g. birthdays, weddings etc.
- *support each other during times of illness and grief (prayers, flowers, meals...)
- *come together in social settings e.g. staff dinners
- *affirm others, acknowledge successes
- *use positive speaking and communication styles
- *develop strategies for dealing with problem areas – conflict resolution

