



# Pastoral Care Policy

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## Related Policies

Student Welfare and Management Policy  
Bullying Policy  
Code of Conduct Policy  
Child Protection Policy

## Purpose

This policy outlines the school belief statements about Pastoral Care for children and families who attend St Thomas the Apostle Primary School.

## Policy

At St Thomas the Apostle Primary School we believe:

- Pastoral Care is the school community working for one another.
- Pastoral Care emphasises the holistic development of each person.
- Pastoral Care integrates learning within an environment of care.
- Pastoral Care promotes effective teaching and learning.
- Pastoral Care responds to the needs of people in our school community.
- Pastoral Care reflects our Vision Statement.
- Pastoral Care reflects our personal and communal responses to our loving God.

## Definitions

Pastoral Care is the attention and care we show for one another in our school community.

## Procedures

### 1. Families

- At St Thomas' we welcome families at the beginning of each school year with a 'welcome BBQ'.
- Each class has a parent community contact person, called the Class Parent Rep. The responsibilities of this parent are to keep in contact with other parents and support them during times of trouble. Class Parent Reps usually publish a class contact list, welcome new families, arrange days out for families and work with the school and class teacher to make families aware of school functions.
- School Community Council meetings are open to all and parents are welcome to come along to discuss areas of concern.
- Teachers at St Thomas' welcome parental involvement and maintain open and professional contact with families in the school.
- Parents are encouraged to speak with the Principal concerning issues regarding the payment of school fees. We have a fee remission program and we respect the privacy and dignity of each family.

## 2. Children

- Children are encouraged to show care and respect for one another. Children are encouraged to reflect on the values expressed in our Vision and Mission Statements
- Year 5 & 6 buddy the Kinder and Year 1 and the classes meet on a regular basis for sharing and reading in Terms 1 & 4.
- The primary children elect a school leadership team comprising of two school captains, two vice captains and House leaders. These are Year 6 students. All Year 6 students are leaders who belong to a leadership team including the Green Team, the Technology Team, the Fun and Fitness Team and the Hospitality Team.
- The senior children are expected to demonstrate leadership by the way they model appropriate behaviours on the playground and by the extra duties they perform specific to their nominated team.
- Birthdays are celebrated at morning assemblies by the issuing of birthday stickers and singing Happy Birthday.
- Children through their RE lessons are asked to reflect on their mission in the world and to discuss ways they can help one another.
- The Year 5/6 students and teachers implement the Peer Support program within the school in Term 2 & 3.
- The Year 5/6 students participate in the Sports Leadership program and implement the program in Term 4 with Kinder and Years 1 & 2.

## 3. Parish

- St Thomas' works hard to maintain the excellent working relationship that exists between the school and the Parish. Children in class groups regularly attend Wednesday or Thursday Parish Masses. Our Sacramental program is Parish based with the Parish and the school staff collaborating to teach the students through home groups the sacramental program. We encourage children to attend weekend Masses.
- Children work each year to help supply food items for the St Vincent de Paul Chapter in the Parish.

## References

Nil

## Forms

Nil

<b>Approved by:</b>	Principal
<b>Issuing Group:</b>	St. Thomas the Apostle Primary School
<b>Implementation Date:</b>	January 2008
<b>Supersedes Policy Dated:</b>	2005
<b>Policy last updated:</b>	2013
<b>Review date:</b>	2018