

PASTORAL CARE POLICY (BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

Rationale or Purpose

Villanova College is a Catholic college “striving for excellence in boys’ education as an Augustinian community one in mind and heart on the way towards God”.ⁱ

Villanova College is a Catholic college for boys where education is the formation of the whole person within a faith community. The staff, parents and students both past and present contribute their gifts and talents towards the development of young men of Gospel values who seek the common good. The community promotes life-long learning through continually challenging itself in the restless search for Truth.ⁱⁱ

Villanova College embraces the living tradition of the Catholic Church, enriching the mission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane with its Augustinian charism and organisational independence. It is witness to the Gospel vision of life, centered on Christ, and challenges those values of contemporary Australian society which erode the dignity of the human person. In following the path of St Augustine, Villanova College values and seeks humility and interiority as paths for each individual to form, nurture and restore right relationships with themselves, with others and with God. It also assists students to realise the fullness of their potential, as they strive to integrate the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual dimensions of life and culture, in ways most appropriate to their particular stage of development.ⁱⁱⁱ

Villanova College strives to be a community characterised by caring relationships, which are integral to permeate the daily life of the College, and cannot be restricted to a particular program or curriculum. Our commitment to the quality of community life is enhanced by three Augustinian values, known at Villanova College as the Gateway Values:

Interiority - the inner process by which the truth of what is taught is tested by the ‘teacher within’; the presence of God within each person.

Search for Truth - the quest not merely to discover the truth of what is taught, but rather a commitment to live out the truth of what is learned.

Community - both the context within which teaching and learning take place and the beneficiary of the teaching and learning that occurs.

Pastoral Care is the merciful response to each member of the school community which affirms, promotes and celebrates the well being of each member. In being both supportive and challenging, Pastoral Care is based on belief in the value, uniqueness and potential of each person who is created in the image of God. The pastoral care of students, parents and staff is a very important part of the character of the College.

Policy

1. The College will ensure that the dignity and worth of each person is continually affirmed and that each student and staff member is known and recognised.
2. Pastoral Care will be extended to, and is the responsibility of, all members of the College community.
3. The College will provide an environment where staff share with parents a particular responsibility for the spiritual, intellectual, physical, social and emotional well-being of each individual student.
4. The College will provide a safe, supportive and inclusive environment.
5. Students will be encouraged to develop and exercise self-discipline and take appropriate responsibility for their actions and learning.
6. Students will be supported in their decision making processes as they seek to live out gospel values.
7. The College will provide structures and processes which promote mutual trust, honesty, respect and opportunities for mentoring in relationships amongst all members of the school community.
8. Pastoral Care will underpin the College curriculum, structures and programs, value the diverse gifts of each person and support them through the stages of their personal growth.

Implementation

This policy, and the procedures and practices that flow from it, are to be part of the staff, student and parent induction and formation processes on an ongoing basis and are to be included in the relevant publications of the college.

The College will support staff in accessing a wide range of professional development opportunities in the area of pastoral care.

Evaluation and Review

This policy is to be reviewed after three (3) years or earlier to take account of any changes to relevant legislation or regulations or to the College's operations and practices and to make sure it remains appropriate to the changing environment.

Review Date: 13 September 2020.

Endorsement: This policy was approved and endorsed by the Villanova College Board on 13 September 2017.

References

- i Villanova College Vision Statement
- ii Villanova College Mission Statement
- iii Villanova College Guiding Principles