ST JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL
TWEED HEADS

PASTORAL CARE POLICY
2014

Date issued: March 2014
Date to be reviewed: 2018

RATIONALE:
Pastoral care permeates school life and expresses itself through the genuine concern shown to all members of the school community. It is the way in which a school responds to the needs of parents, children, and staff. The Pastoral care network encourages all to develop their gifts and talents by fostering the growth of the whole person (spiritual, social, emotional, intellectual and physical).

DIMENSIONS OF PASTORAL CARE:
- Development of a positive and enriching school culture and climate
- Affirmation of the giftedness of all members of the school community
- Encouragement of interaction and effective communication between parents, staff and students
- Cultivation of a Christian school environment
- Creation of an accepting atmosphere within classrooms, where learning experiences are meaningful and enjoyable
- Interaction with local community by participation in programmes and the encouragement of involvement of the local community in school based activities
- Provision made for recognition of the special role of the Parish Priest and the School Chaplain
- The establishment of School Forum Pastoral Care Committee.
- Introduction or development of special programmes to respond to the particular needs of the school community.
- Offering care and support of families and need

THESE INCLUDE: Life Education, Seasons for Growth, Child Protection, Buddy System, Social Skills Programmes, WHS, Transition – Pre School to
Pastoral Care is the underlying principle in the school’s policy and curriculum statements, procedures and organisational structures. As such, pastoral care forms the basis from which the Discipline Policy has been developed.

**STUDENT WELL-BEING**

With funding from Catholic Schools Office the school is committed to providing counselling services to individual students who are experiencing personal, social, emotional and/or behavioural well-being issues.

This service will also provide students with social skill development opportunities and equip parents and staff with strategies to deal with well-being issues.

The Learning support unit also provides information relating to the services available from outside agencies which maybe recommended when the need arises.

**SCHOOL FORUM PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE**

The school forum is committed to providing a pastoral care service to parents within the wider school community. This care takes the form of:

- Food parcels
- Benefit fund raising events
- Bereavement support