

Pastoral Care Policy & Guidelines



Overview

The school will monitor its pastoral care policy and have in place procedures to ensure we do our best to keep students safe and nurtured while in the care of the school. Pastoral care at Kamaroi School is about partnerships with teachers, parents, carers and social agencies to nurture the people of the school community.

Students have the right to an education, which responds to their individual needs in a safe, nurturing environment fostering positive relationships at all levels.

Students will be made aware of, and have access to, appropriate pastoral care arrangements within the school. The school will take reasonable measures to identify students with special needs and provide them with an appropriate level of support to assist such students with their schooling with minimal disruption, taking into account the resources available.

Policy

Pastoral care is the support given to students for their development as a person. It relates to the total care of students and involves tending to both the academic and non-academic needs of students, including their spiritual, emotional and social wellbeing. Pastoral care recognises the overriding principle of acting in the best interests of the child. All School staff are responsible for pastoral care, and for administering pastoral care in all classes and extra-curricular activities.

What is Pastoral Care?

Pastoral care is the support given to students for their development as a person. It relates to the total care of students and involves tending to both the academic and non-academic needs of students including spiritual, emotional and social wellbeing.

Kamaroi Rudolf Steiner School is committed to providing a safe, supportive and social environment where students feel nurtured as they learn.

We have developed, and continue to develop, a comprehensive range of pastoral care procedures that are designed to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of our students in areas such as:

- independence
- communication skills
- teaching whole-school shared values
- resilience
- social awareness
- personal responsibility
- healthy living
- healthy minds
- empathy and emotional intelligence, and
- cultural awareness
- explicit program in Class 5 & 6 on healthy relationships, holistic relationship to gender, puberty and self-development

Our school

Kamaroi employs quality teaching and learning strategies that address the individual learning needs of students. By engaging students in this way, they are encouraged to become reflective, self-directed learners who accept personal responsibility for their participation in school whilst exercising self-discipline.

Wellbeing support is provided to address the needs of students on a one-on-one basis, as well with small groups, full class support and parent/carer support at Kamaroi. Our school Chaplain and Director of Wellbeing work with school management, teachers and parents to ensure that pastoral care at our school is available to all children.

Our key pastoral care policies and procedures include:

Teaching and learning

Class teacher period - the aim is for children remain with their class teacher/s (there may, from time to time, be a job share situation or a change in class teacher) from class 1 – 6. The ongoing relationship that builds between the children and the class teacher provides the opportunity to form a trusting and secure atmosphere in the class.

The sense of bonding between the children enhances self-esteem and acceptance of others. In this model, the parent/teacher partnership is strongly fostered.

Quality teaching and learning strategies responsive to the individual learning needs of students are addressed at school. By engaging students in this way, they are encouraged to become reflective, self-directed learners who accept personal responsibility for their participation in school whilst disciplining themselves.

Student Safety & Welfare

Kamaroi Rudolf Steiner School has implemented a comprehensive workplace health and safety program and a student care program designed to ensure the ongoing safety and welfare of students. Key policies and procedures include those relating to:

- Anti-bullying policy and procedures also based in a rights and responsibilities framework and research based 'no blame' and 'method of shared concern' approaches.
- Child Protection and Code of Conduct for Staff
- Student Supervision
- Chaplain (Pastoral Care) worker who works with class teachers in delivering resilience programs, transition to adolescence, transition to high school etc
- Managing Student Health
- Managing Student Behaviour; as outlined in the School Behaviour Support policy & guidelines and Positive Behaviour Intervention Support program (PBIS) which is based on a rights and responsibilities framework
- Students with Disabilities; and learning support including developmental movement program and Extra Lesson (provided by a private practitioner) which supports all aspects of child development – academic/social/emotional and behaviour
- Managing Extracurricular Activities
- Whole School Assemblies where children are recognised for good deeds via the "Golden Book" and where the rights and responsibilities ethos is fostered;

- Festivals throughout the year which fosters in children and their families a strong sense of belonging
- Building and Grounds Maintenance;
- School Security and
- Critical Incident Management
- Parent education program, which is subsidised by the Parents and Friends' Association and involves workshops, guest speakers on a broad range of issues concerning parenting, health and Steiner education
- High level of parent participation in the life of the school, facilitating home/school partnership – role of parents outlined in parent handbook, including the wide range of opportunities for parent participation – craft, reading, gardening, coordinating fairs and social activities, etc.

Students with Special Needs

Kamaroi Rudolf Steiner School has implemented detailed policies and procedures for managing students with special needs including both Learning Support and Gifted and Talented. Refer to our:

Refer to our *Learning Support Policy and Guidelines*

Mentoring

We recognise that students benefit from the advice and experience of their peers. To this end, Kamaroi Rudolf Steiner School has in place a Class 1 Buddy program with the class 6 students.

Leadership

This includes buddy support, fundraising, leading assemblies, coordinating special activity days, school service programs and The SRC which begins in term 2 or 3 each year and is monitored by the Principal in consultation with the class 6 teacher.

Homework

Homework is part of the learning process and equips students with learning skills that will assist them in their future.

Refer to our *Homework Policy*

Who is Responsible for pastoral care?

When parents are seeking assistance, the following procedure should be followed:

Classroom teacher

- First point of contact for academic and routine matters

Director of Wellbeing will become involved when there are

- More ongoing/major concerns

School Chaplain (Pastoral Care worker)

- May also be involved working in a team approach with Class Teacher Learning Support Team and Principal
- Provides assistance with group conflict resolution
- Children with ongoing social/emotional needs in consultation with class teacher
- Where assessment or referral may be required

Principal

- Final point of contact
- Involvement in issues of major concern, such as bullying
- Parents and teachers will keep the Principal informed of ongoing concerns.

Access to counselling

The school does not employ a specialist counsellor. Especially in relation to special needs students, the school liaises with psychologists and other support professionals (such as is provided by the Association of Independent Schools) to implement individual education plans.

The School Chaplain (Pastoral Care Worker) is also qualified to source appropriate services to meet children's needs which may involve referrals access to services in the community.

For further information regarding Pastoral Care, please contact the School Office.

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<p>Related Documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-Bullying Policies & Guidelines Attendance Policy & Guidelines Child Protection Policy Staff Code of Conduct Care Communication Policy & Guidelines Discrimination, Harassment, Workplace Bullying Statement Excursions & Other Visits Policy & Guidelines First Aid Policy & Guidelines Learning Support Policy and Guidelines Homework Guidelines Issues Resolution Policy & Guidelines Medical Treatment for Students Policy & Guidelines Playground & Supervision Policy & Guidelines Risk Management Procedure & Guidelines School Behaviour Support Policy & Guidelines Security Policy & Guidelines Serious Incidents Policy & Guidelines Student Safety & Welfare Policy & Guidelines Work Health Safety Policy & Guidelines Working with Children Check Process & Guidelines

Document Distribution
Kamaroi School Website
Excerpts in parent Hand book

Communications	Date
Copies distributed to staff	18/02/11
Casual staff given hard copy	18/02/11
Staff have access to e-policy file to read and sign off as having read.	November 2013
Staff Intranet	March 2016
Staff Intranet	Nov 2016
Complispace	May 2021

Version History

Version	Date	Notes
1.0	Sept 2008	Document created
2.0	Feb 2011	Addition of Emotional/Social Coordinator
3.0	Oct 2013	Minor alterations to reflect current circumstances and programs.
4.0	Feb 2016	Addition of Pastoral Care worker and Rebranded addition of Document Distribution Box and footers added.
4.1	June 2016	Update legislation & adjustment to guidelines based on current resources
4.2	Nov 2016	Slight Update on the LS structure Student liaison coordinator
5.0	May 2021	Updated, reformatted, positions and roles updated, general upgrade to reflect requirements and currency at Kamaroi