



PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Child Safe Standard 7: Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children

Context

Christian Brothers' College St Kilda (CBC St Kilda) is a Catholic school for girls and boys in the Edmund Rice tradition, established in 1878. CBC St Kilda is committed to providing a caring, supportive and safe environment where every student has a place, a voice and their story is known. As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition, our Christian values are those expressed in the Touchstones of our governing body, Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA): Liberating Education, Gospel Spirituality, Inclusive Community, Justice and Solidarity. The charism of Blessed Edmund Rice expressed through these touchstones, underpins our continued commitment to a safe and inclusive environment for all, providing a preferential option to those at the margins, to grow in empathy and to respond in faith and action.

Rationale

Based upon the beliefs that Jesus' example of love and compassion is the guide to all interactions and that every individual is of infinite value and needs to be treated with respect and care, CBC St Kilda supports the pastoral care and wellbeing of all its students.

We believe that students learn best when their social and emotional needs are met. By knowing and supporting each student, promoting self-confidence and resilience in a nurturing and inclusive environment and working in partnership with families, we strive to ensure that each student feels connected and supported at our College.

A culture of care is embedded within our pastoral programs and structures. These are designed to equip our students with the skills and support structures to maintain good personal wellbeing and to be able to work through difficult times when they arise.

Principles

- Our pastoral care is informed by the model of Jesus' compassion and love.
- We are committed to the pastoral care of all members of our school community.
- Through our interactions, structures and programs, we aim for our students to embody the touchstones of the Edmund Rice Tradition.
- We are committed to knowing all our students and using positive education practices to help build self support skills.
- Every interaction is an opportunity for the formation of students.
- We have high expectations of our students in relation to the way they interact with each other.

- Our Pastoral Care is informed by the touchstones of our governing body, Edmund Rice Education Australia, Catholic Education Melbourne's Pastoral Care Framework, Horizons of Hope documentation and Positive Education theorem.
- We establish strong working relationships with external agencies, to enhance the support we provide our students.

Policy Statement

CBC is committed to providing pastoral care for all its students. This care is informed by Jesus' model of love and compassion and based on the belief that every person is of infinite value and needs to be treated with respect and dignity. Through our practices and structures, we support this policy in the day-to-day operation of the College.

Procedures

- **Restorative Practice**

The College has developed and utilizes restorative practices in forming and maintaining relationships. This assists members of our community to reflect on and learn from difficult interactions and behaviour that is not in keeping with College Codes of Conduct. In a collaborative and respectful manner, problems are addressed.

- **Pastoral Program**

The College is committed to strong partnership with families to develop students who are respectful, resilient young people who live out the Touchstones of the Edmund Rice Tradition. Accordingly, our pastoral program is built around the Touchstones and offer contemporary, engaging sessions that are thought-provoking, challenging and enlightening. These sessions draw from the pastoral care framework of Catholic Education Melbourne.

- **Culture of Care**

Each student has a Homeroom/Pastoral Care Teacher to help guide and support students as they face academic, emotional and social challenges. Each year-level is assigned a Program Leader that is committed to knowing each student and providing needs-based care for each student.

- **Counselling Service**

The Student Counsellor, informed by positive psychology theorem and cognitive behaviour practice, is available to assist students facing challenges and difficulties.

- **Child Safety**

CBC St Kilda is committed to providing a safe and child friendly environment, where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and are able to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives. At CBC St Kilda we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and are committed to acting in children's best interests and keeping them safe from harm. The College regards its child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance and as such, is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure

compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and maintain a child safe culture.

- **Proactive Pastoral Activities**

The College is committed to zero tolerance of any bullying in any form. Further, we create an inclusive culture whereby our students are encouraged to talk to each other about how they are feeling and actively listen to one another. The College has established specific student engagement programs that highlight and underpin our zero tolerance commitment to bullying. These programs include opportunities for cross year-level student mentoring.

- **Student Leadership & Student Voice**

The College runs a vibrant, extensive Student Representative Council, Student Voice Committee and College Prefect structure, representative of student body diversity. This provides students with platforms to voice their views on various aspects of safety and pastoral care in the College, and providing students with an opportunity to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives. Student Leaders are also in place to support their fellow students.

- **Professional Development**

CBC St Kilda is committed to internal and external professional development for all staff in pastoral care, student wellbeing and child safety.

References

EREA Charter (Touchstones)

CBC St Kilda Child Protection and Safety Policy

CEM Policy 2.26 Pastoral Care of Students in Catholic Schools

Catholic Education Melbourne: EXCEL Framework for Pastoral Care

Review

This policy will be reviewed 2021.