



# Pastoral Care Policy

## Context

St Patrick's College is a Catholic day and boarding school for boys in the Edmund Rice tradition, established in 1893. St Patrick's College is committed to providing a caring, supportive, and safe environment where every student has a place, a voice and their story is known. Edmund Rice Education Australia is committed to providing safe and supportive environments where all children and young people entrusted to our care are affirmed in their dignity needs of our students\*.

\*Student includes any person enrolled in the College

## Definition

At St Patrick's College pastoral care is defined as the care of the members of the College community. Following the example and teaching of Christ, we seek to enhance the personal growth of each individual and spiritually according to their unique circumstances.

## Rationale

Foundational to the nature of pastoral care is the belief that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. This belief implies that every person has a unique purpose and potential. A further foundational belief for Catholic pastoral care is the belief in the image and likeness in its most human expression, the person. Jesus Christ, the "way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6) is realised. In accordance with this belief, and the teaching of the Church, the exercise of pastoral care at St Patrick's College is a caring and endeavour, honouring diversity, responsibility and the dignity of the individual.

St Patrick's College is entrusted by parents and the wider community with the care of the young, with a significant share in responsibility for their education and well-being.

## Scripture

Catholic schools are called to 'Bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, and set the downtrodden free' (Luke 4:18)

'If one member suffers, all members suffer. If one member is honoured, all members share this joy. You are then the body of Christ' (1 Corinthians 12:25-26)



The College recognises that the effectiveness of pastoral care depends to a significant extent on the staff's ability to implement it. With this in mind the College:

- employs a Pastoral Care Coordinator to work with staff to develop programs and source resources;
- encourages staff to undertake professional development, to better equip them to deal with the pastoral care of students in all its complexity;
- ensures all members of the College community are accountable for their words and actions in the light of this policy.

While recognising the need to care for each individual, a balance needs to be maintained between the demands of an individual on the resources of the College and the needs of the whole College Community.

#### Status of Policy

This policy has been downloaded from CompliSpace, is endorsed by EREA-VSL and is reviewed annually.

Policy owner	St Patrick's College - Ballarat
Approving authority	Principal
Approval date	June 2022
Risk rating	<b>HIGH</b>
Date of next review	June 2024
Publication details	School website

POLICY DATABASE INFORMATION	
Assigned TERE Board Framework	Child Safety
Related policies	<a href="#">Accident Management Policy</a> <a href="#">Anaphylaxis Policy</a> <a href="#">First Aid Policy</a> <a href="#">OH&amp;S Policy</a> <a href="#">Student Concussion Policy</a> <a href="#">Supervision (General) Policy</a> <a href="#">Supervision (Yard Duties) Policy</a>
Superseded documents	<a href="#">Replaces previous policy for MO870</a>