



## Procedural Statement

We are committed to nurturing positive relationships within our school community through living our Caritas motto – care and concern for others. The school climate extends a sense of belonging to all members of the community. An atmosphere of welcome and reconciliation, gives cohesion to the school community and a sense of security. This open hospitality is extended to guests and visitors to our school.

Pastoral Care has many faces both explicit and implicit, structured and spontaneous. Developing a community of care requires an investment of energy, an affirmation of the giftedness of each person, a means of resolving conflicts and a working towards of communal goals.

Pastoral Care at Mater Dei is relational, dynamic and in a process of growth and change, as we seek new ways to create a climate of Christian community.

The following are some of the positive ways in which we seek to develop Pastoral Care.

- Orientation days for parents enrolling into Prep and new school families.
- Parent Teacher Evenings and Meetings.
- An invitation to Parents to be involved in classroom activities.
- Parents are involved in the decision making processes of the school through their membership of various committees.
- The choice to attend Parents & Friends Monthly Meetings.
- A 'class parent network' which supports various functions held during the school year and welcomes new parents.
- Encouraging school social functions which cater for all groups within the school community.
- Family events are highlighted or support is offered in situations of bereavement.
- A weekly newsletter keeps parents informed on all matters of school life.
- Occasions of farewell and graduation mark the conclusion of student participation in school life.
- Year 7 students are given opportunities to take leadership roles in the sporting, social and academic undertakings of the school.
- Through a system of "Buddy" classes interaction and friendship is extended across age groups within the school. The "Buddy" system also gives teachers peer support.
- Weekly assemblies keep students informed of happenings within the school, and allow a time of sharing with teachers.
- The presentation of weekly Student of the Week awards is a way of promoting self- esteem among students.

- Prayer brings us together at either Parish Mass and on special Sacramental occasions, eg. Ash Wednesday liturgies.
- Weekly Staff Prayer provides teachers with an opportunity to pray together.
- Staff social activities provide opportunities to foster support and friendship among staff and their families.
- Celebration and recreation is encouraged regularly to build staff support and show appreciation.
- Year level planning days help teachers professionally and provide an opportunity for peer sharing.
- The Leadership Team supports staff by providing additional release time and release of duties where possible.
- An invitation is extended to the Parish Priest to be involved in all aspects of the School's life.
- Visits by the Parish Priest are valued by staff and students.