

# Maria Regina Catholic Primary School Pastoral Care Policy



*(We acknowledge the Pastoral Care Policy of the Diocese of Broken Bay that forms the basis of our school Pastoral Care Policy)*

## **PURPOSE**

Maria Regina Catholic Primary School affirms that, consistent with the Diocesan Mission statement, each Catholic School has a special responsibility for the pastoral care of students. This statement is intended to provide Maria Regina Catholic Primary School with our own Pastoral Care Policies consistent with Diocesan Policy and our School Vision Statement.

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Pastoral Care in Maria Regina Catholic Primary School is based firmly on the Christian vision as expressed in the following statements.

### **Pastoral Care:**

**... has as its focus, the life of Jesus Christ**

Pastoral Care at Maria Regina School draws its expression and strength from the life of Jesus Christ. In Jesus we see God's paramount expression of love, compassion, reconciliation and justice. In Jesus we experience God as a caring shepherd who is faithful to the flock, who knows intimately, who frees and saves.

Jesus demonstrates by his own life what we have been created to be: fully human, fully alive and able to participate in the life and love of God. It is this vision of human life which Maria Regina School and Parish community seeks to embrace and emulate in its approach to Pastoral Care.

**... is concerned with the dignity and integral growth of the person**

As an agent in the mission and ministry of the Church, Maria Regina School aims to offer to all students a vision and experience of learning that is an exercise of love (cf, *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium*, n15). In a community that provides a strong sense of wellbeing, belonging and security, students are given every opportunity to be affirmed in their dignity and worth, confirmed in their personhood, and assisted to grow to the fullness of their potential. Likewise, the dignity of parents and their noble place as prime educators of their children is respected and affirmed.

**...is a responsibility entrusted to all members of the faith community**

In Maria Regina School and Parish community, responsibility is entrusted to all members – students, parents, staff, clergy, administrators – to contribute to one another's growth and journey towards wholeness. It endeavours to provide to all the experience of high quality interpersonal relationships of care and support. Thus, each member is both a provider and recipient of Pastoral care and support.

***... is a force for healing, reconciliation and liberation***

Maria Regina Catholic school community is committed to the values of compassion, tolerance, forgiveness and reconciliation. Pastoral Care supports and provides a context for the growth and expression of these values in all aspects of the school's life.

***..is an expression of and commitment to justice***

Pastoral Care at Maria Regina endeavours to uphold and sustain policies and practices that foster the values of mutual respect, responsibility and service within the community. A commitment to democratic processes, cooperation and concern for the common good are principles that students are progressively encouraged to emulate in their relationships with others.

A school community needs to respond with increasing sensitivity to the social and cultural diversity of its members. It is in and through Pastoral Care that much can be done to promote respect and to support such things as diverse family structures, different ways of giving expression to Christian faith, awareness of cross-cultural issues. Maria Regina's policies and practices must be respectful of the dignity, rights and fundamental freedoms of individual students and must provide learning opportunities for individual students which are responsive to their unique needs for growth and fulfilment.