

DOMINIC COLLEGE

A Catholic School in the Salesian Tradition



PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Date	3 May 2018
Version No	2
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Review Date	1 April 2020
Related Documents	PC Policies and Procedures Behaviour Management Policy Safe School Policy

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1. Our Philosophy

The Pastoral Care Policy of Dominic College provides the framework for the development of the individual student within the ethos of a Catholic School in the Salesian tradition.

Pastoral Care at Dominic College is based on St John Bosco's Preventive System and the Charter of Salesian Schools.

In keeping with the spirit of St John Bosco, the founder of the Salesians, whereby "education is largely a matter of the heart" that leads young people to "know that they are loved".

Pastoral Care is the overall climate of care that exists within Dominic College. It includes the policies, processes, programs and practices delivered at school level with the purpose of supporting and enhancing the wellbeing of the students based on understandings of human dignity.

Pastoral Care provides a foundation for relationships between students and staff based on mutual respect. Pastoral Care is founded in community and a commitment to developing a deep sense of belonging and connection to and within community. Pastoral Care is an authentic expression of the vision and mission of the school as faith community. All staff have a role in the development of Pastoral Care at the College.

Parent support for, and involvement in, their children's education is a critical factor in student engagement, achievement and wellbeing and the foundation of partnership and a view that the parent is the primary educator.

Pastoral Care at Dominic College is characterized by positive relationships at school, positive attitudes, resilience, being able to maximise strengths and high levels of satisfaction with learning experiences (e.g. Noble and Wyatt, 2008). Wellbeing is promoted in a safe and supportive school.

Dominic College promotes Pastoral Care through a framework of Academic Care by:

- Providing opportunities to develop an understanding of the strong links between learning, well-being and resilience;
- Believing that all students can succeed in their learning;
- Monitoring student connectedness to the learning environment;
- Stimulating student engagement with learning;
- Providing learning experiences that are relevant to their lives fostering high expectations of all students as learners;
- Engaging staff and students in dialogue about understanding learning;
- Utilising a range of support networks and resources; implement structures and programs in response to diverse student needs.

2. Rationale

Each person is respected and acknowledged as a valuable member of the Dominic College Community. We seek to establish a relationship and partnership with staff, parents and students which promotes mutual understanding, respect, tolerance and acceptance.

3. Aims

Dominic College strives to be:

A home that welcomes

- Being committed to the care and support of all young people
- Cultivating relationships based on genuine affection, openness and acceptance of others
- Fostering an atmosphere of joy, hope and optimism based on the 'Good News' of Jesus Christ
- Creating a friendly, safe and supportive community environment where all individuals are treated with dignity

A playground where friends meet and enjoy themselves

- Being present with each other in an active, engaging and friendly manner
- Building positive and inclusive relationships between each other
- Having a rich experience of interaction and sharing, especially students and staff
- Creating occasions for celebration and festivity

A school that prepares for life

- Encouraging a passion for independent, life-long learning and a quest for excellence
- Developing a sense of meaning and purpose, which expresses itself in a spirit of service and self-giving
- Support students in cultivating resilience, resourcefulness, responsibility and adaptability as important skills for life
- Support students in the development of the whole person and to share with parents their child's intellectual, emotional and spiritual development

A parish that evangelises

- Having a strong and vibrant Religious Education and liturgical programme
- Prioritising the faith development and formation of self
- Providing students with significant experiences of faith in action
- Integrating faith and spiritual experiences within Pastoral Care activities and learning experiences

4. College Expectations

At Dominic College, we are a Christian community:

We are respectful

To self, others and the environment

We are responsible

At all times, in all settings

We are honest

To self and others

We are learners

For life

5. Pastoral Programs

There are several Pastoral programs in place at Dominic College to achieve the aims of our Pastoral care Policy:

- K-6 organised in class groups with a classroom teacher who has a pastoral role
- K-6 Buddy Program
- Vertical streamed Pastoral groups in years 7-10
- Celebration of Feast Days
- Camps and excursions
- EMPOWER Program
- Co-curricular and Sports program
- House system
- Student Leadership
- Merits & Awards
- Assemblies
- Religious Celebrations
- School Wide Positive Behaviour Support practises
- Goal Setting

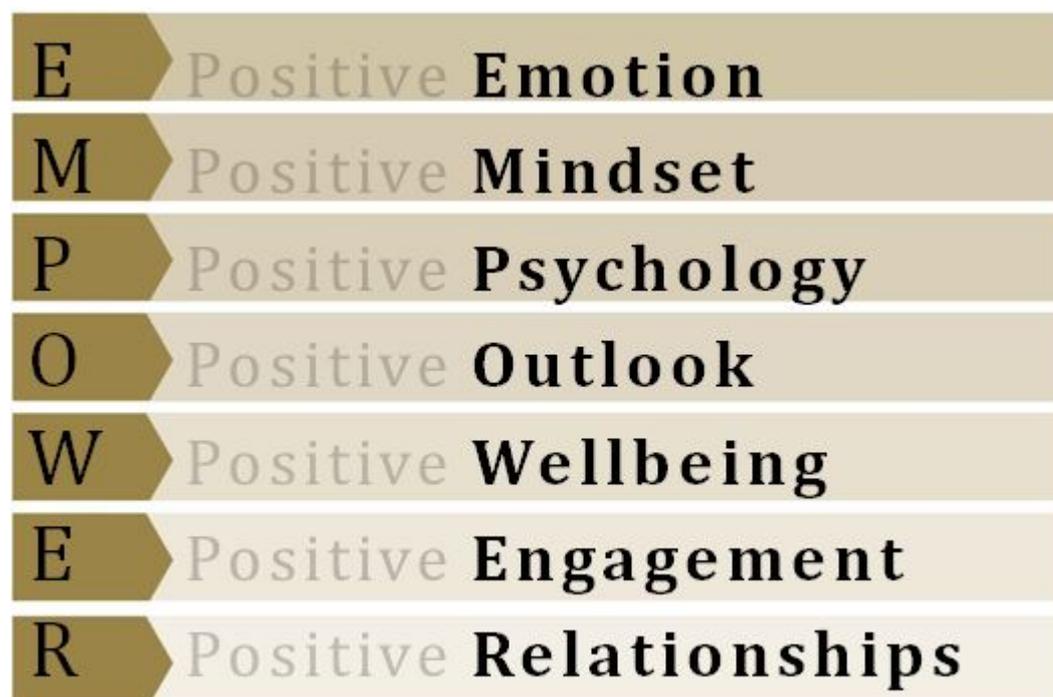
The Pastoral Care of students is seen in conjunction with all other policies which operate within the College.

6. EMPOWER Program

The EMPOWER Program is the social and emotional wellbeing program at Dominic College from K-10. Embedded around the philosophy of Positive Psychology it combines the best elements from a number of highly acclaimed programs to create a program designed to empower our students and give them valuable skills to ensure they thrive.

It is explicitly taught from K-10.

The name of the program is both a statement of intent and an acronym. The aim of the program is to empower our students and help them flourish in life. It encompasses the key areas of positive emotion, positive (growth) mindset, positive psychology, positive outlook, positive wellbeing, positive engagement and positive relationships all tied together on the foundation of understanding and embracing character strengths.



7. Structures

The College ensures structures and processes to support and monitor student well-being and mental health, and develops frameworks and practices that create a strong, socially positive environment for students and encourages strong presence by staff in the daily lives of students.

Structures should support consistent student attendance and achieve maximum participation rates of students in the life of the College and to seek ways to address student needs.

Structures should focus on engaging students as learners and as members of a learning community within a faith tradition.