



## Pastoral Care Policy

<b>Introduction</b>	<p>Pastoral Care is defined as the provision schools make to ensure the emotional, physical and spiritual welfare of students within their care.</p> <p>A successful Pastoral Policy means students feel safe, happy, involved and are performing to their full potential. At St Edward's, Pastoral Care is seen as a priority to help foster and promote a positive learning environment for all students who attend the College.</p>
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>St Edward's college follows the ethos of catholic schools in the Edmund Rice tradition. Under this philosophy, the College adopts the following EREA principles in caring for students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the dignity of each person underpins any program designed to support the development of each student</li><li>• any wellbeing program will be well researched, educative, supportive and restorative in nature</li><li>• wellbeing practices will emphasise duty of care responsibilities for the common good and safety of all members of the school community</li><li>• the use of any form of child abuse, corporal punishment or other degrading punishment is explicitly forbidden</li><li>• students will have a voice when it comes to designing programs to support their wellbeing</li><li>• wellbeing programs will be inclusive and culturally sensitive</li><li>• parents and other family members are recognised as the primary caregivers of children</li><li>• natural justice (that being the rule against bias) and procedural fairness will underpin all procedures designed to support student wellbeing</li><li>• appropriate resources are allocated to enable wellbeing programs to be implemented effectively.</li></ul>
<b>Implementation</b>	<p>All members of the St Edward's community are called to exercise the principles of Pastoral Care to each other.</p> <p>Students are known and treated as individuals and, via a dedicated Pastoral Leader for each grade, are assisted in their personal growth.</p> <p>St Edwards also manage a Homeroom system where each Homeroom teacher is responsible for a range of students from Year</p>



	<p>7 to Year 12. The vertical integration of students across all years also encourages the concept of and programs for peer support.</p> <p>Within the classroom and schoolyard, teachers use their own systems of support and discipline. Teachers will also make use of the College's standard procedures where situations may require further or broader attention.</p>
<b>College Level System</b>	<p>The St Edward's College Level System is currently under review (2022).</p>
<b>Role of the College Counsellors</b>	<p>The College Counsellors provide an opportunity for students or parents to discuss matters that are of concern to them. The aim of providing such a service comes through a holistic and restorative approach, which supports the College Charter of education being a liberating force in raising awareness of self and others in the world.</p> <p>While all members of staff exercise Pastoral Care, the College Counsellors offer professional, specific and direct help that is beyond the training of staff members. Alongside the Charter, the College Counsellors also adhere to their professional registration bodies, those being the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) and Australian Psychological Society (APS). These guidelines also encompass their code of conduct; which includes providing a confidential process that supports students and their families in times of need both internally and externally.</p> <p>In accordance with the 'Paramountcy Principle,' the College Counsellors adhere to the child's best interest and welfare at all times. This plays an important role when guided by 'The Care of Children Act', which allows a judge to take all things into consideration when making orders around care and protection of children if the situation leads to such circumstances. All records of sessions are held within an encrypted electronic format that is only accessible to the counsellors or by courts if subpoenaed. As outlined by Section 7 of The Child Guardian Act 2019 (NSW), counsellors may speak to students on an informed consent basis and, if deemed appropriate and satisfactory under NSW Child Safeguarding legislation and guidelines, without the consent of a Parent or Guardian. Currently St Edward's College has two full time Counsellors.</p> <p>In order to maintain a holistic approach, they sometimes work in conjunction with external agencies and stakeholders that can complete the basis of the counselling process. The College Counsellors are located in the Pastoral Care area, the Wellbeing Centre Yadhaba. Students and families always have access to counselling during school terms. Out of school terms, counsellors are accessible and utilised when requested by the School Principal. The</p>





	<p>content of this policy is to be used in conjunction with the College Pastoral Procedure document which outlines details of the College programs and approach to its care program. This document is available upon request from St Edward's</p>
<b>Responsible Officers</b>	<p>The College Principal, Mr. Mark Bonnici is responsible for the implementation of this Pastoral Policy. The current Child Safety officers are the:</p> <p>Deputy Principal</p> <p>Director of Pastoral Care</p>
<b>Related Information</b>	<p><a href="#">The Child Guardian Act 2019 (NSW)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Guide to the Child Safe Standards</a></p> <p><a href="#">The Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition</a></p> <p><a href="#">EREA Code of Conduct</a></p> <p><a href="#">EREA Child Safe Standards</a></p> <p>EREA CompliSpace Child Protection programs</p> <p>NSW School Registration requirements</p>

