



# PASTORAL CARE POLICY

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## Rationale

Aquinas College endeavours to promote a healthy, supportive and secure environment for all students and to raise awareness of what makes students resilient. In line with Ministerial Order 870 relating to Child Safety and the Victorian Child Safety Standards, Aquinas College undertakes its responsibility to offer a safe and welcoming learning and social environment. It also encourages the development of student-school connectedness to increase or improve coping skills.

## Aims

Aquinas College is a positive learning environment in which all staff assume responsibility for student welfare, endeavouring to provide successful experiences for all students. It aims to offer a safe, secure and supportive environment where a sense of belonging and wellbeing are nurtured.

- Students develop positive social behaviours and problem solving skills.
- Staff are confident, skilled and proactive in the management of student welfare issues.
- Communication processes and protocols are clear and well known to ensure the effectiveness of student welfare support.

## Implementation

Pastoral care is a shared responsibility between home and the broader College community. Aquinas College uses a strategic and proactive approach with issues of pastoral care rather than operating in a reactive mode. To this end, the College has adopted and implemented the Restorative Practices method in matters concerning pastoral care.

The College has implemented welfare support structures and programs for both students and families which prioritise and address the identified needs of individual students or the College as a whole.

The Youth and Family Centre (YFC) offers professional counselling, personal counselling, spiritual and family support. Students are also supported by offering them strategies to support learning and assist in organisation.

Homerooms/Mentor Groups form the basic pastoral and organisation unit within the College across Years 7 to 12. Year Level Leaders oversee the pastoral care at Years 7-12. The College will also access outside agencies to provide support for students and staff across a range of needs. Overall responsibility for pastoral care is overseen by the Deputy Principal – Students, and supported by the Head Senior Years (Years 10-12) and Head Middle Years (Years 7-9).

The College has appointed qualified nurses to administer and oversee the personal health needs of the students within College hours.

The College endeavours to cater for students identified with specific welfare, social/emotional or health issues, through the establishment of support groups.

Case Management meetings are held each fortnight across each year level, to identify students with welfare, social/emotional, health or family issues.