



# Pastoral Care Policy

## Source of Obligation

The NSW Registration Manual (3.6.2) requires the School to have in place and implement policies and procedures in relation to pastoral care.

## What is Pastoral Care?

Pastoral care is the support given to students for their development as a person. It relates to the total care of students and involves tending to both the academic and non-academic needs of students, including their spiritual, emotional and social wellbeing.

Pastoral care recognises the overriding principle of acting in the best interests of the child.

## Our Approach

Ascham School is committed to providing a safe, supportive and social environment where students feel nurtured as they learn.

To this end, we have developed, and continue to develop, a comprehensive range of pastoral care policies and procedures that are designed to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of our students in areas such as:

- independence
- resilience
- social awareness
- personal responsibility
- healthy living
- healthy minds
- empathy and emotional intelligence
- cultural awareness.

## Who is Responsible for Pastoral Care?

All School staff are responsible for pastoral care, and for administering pastoral care in all classes and extra-curricular activities.

## Key Pastoral Care Policies and Procedures

Our key pastoral care policies and procedures include:

- ***Teaching and Learning***

The School employs quality teaching and learning strategies that address the individual learning needs of students. By engaging students in this way, they are encouraged to become reflective, self-directed learners who accept personal responsibility for their participation in school whilst exercising self-discipline.

- ***Student Safety and Welfare***

The School has implemented a comprehensive workplace health and safety program and a student care program designed to ensure the ongoing safety and welfare of students. Key policies and procedures include those relating to:

- child protection
- student supervision
- managing student health and distribution/monitoring of medication
- managing student behaviour
- students with disabilities
- managing extra-curricular activities
- building and grounds maintenance
- School security
- responding to serious incidents and emergencies.

- ***Counselling***

Counselling is an important part of a student's development and allows caregivers to address the needs of students on a one-on-one basis.

Students are encouraged to talk to the counsellor, in accordance with our **Counselling Services Policy**.

- ***Students with Disabilities and Special Needs***

The School has implemented detailed policies and procedures for managing students with disabilities and special needs.

Refer to our **Disability Discrimination Policy** and **Students with Special Needs Policy**.

- ***Mentoring***

We recognise that students benefit from the advice and experience of their peers. To this end, Ascham School has in place a Student Wellbeing program.

- ***Homework***

Homework is part of the learning process and equips students with learning skills that will assist them in the future. Refer to our **Homework Policy**.

## Implementation

Pastoral care within the School is implemented through a combination of:

- effective policies and procedures
- staff training in student welfare, mental health and spiritual wellbeing
- effective incident notification procedures
- allocation of the overall responsibility for the effective implementation of pastoral care to a senior staff member.