



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.