

STU014 – STUDENT PASTORAL CARE POLICY

POLICY CONTEXT

Willunga Waldorf School is a co-educational and inclusive school. The school's mission is to provide Steiner education from Early Childhood to Class 12, based on the work of Rudolf Steiner. This education is driven by a deep understanding and respect for the developing and unfolding human being.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document describes the principles and protocols that Willunga Waldorf School uses to provide pastoral care to Willunga Waldorf School students.

The policy applies to all Willunga Waldorf School staff and students from Kindergarten to Class 12.

DEFINITION

What is Pastoral Care?

Pastoral care in the context of this policy refers to the overall wellbeing and development of Willunga Waldorf School's students' social, emotional, physical, and spiritual growth alongside their academic progress. It involves creating a supportive and inclusive environment where students feel valued, safe, and encouraged to reach their full potential.

POLICY STATEMENT

At Willunga Waldorf School, we are committed to nurturing the wellbeing of each student through a holistic and developmentally appropriate approach, guided by the principles of Steiner education. Our work supports the emotional, social, and spiritual growth of students, recognising each individual as a unique human being on a lifelong journey of learning and self-discovery.

Pastoral care is woven into the fabric of daily school life and is upheld by all staff through warm relationships, thoughtful guidance, and a deep respect for the child's inner life. We strive to create a safe, inclusive, and caring environment where students feel seen, heard, and supported.

This policy supports our vision of educating and enabling individuals to become socially responsible contributors to the ongoing health of the community and reflects our values of understanding and respecting the developing, unfolding human being, fostering a strong sense of belonging, resilience, and purpose in every student.

PRINCIPLES OF PRACTICE

1. EARLY CHILDHOOD (KINDERGARTEN & RECEPTION) SCHOOL STUDENTS

- The Kindergarten/Reception Lead Teacher has primary responsibility for the pastoral care of kindergarten/reception students as they have extended daily contact with the students.
- The Kindergarten/Reception Lead Teacher and parents will communicate directly in relation to pastoral care issues where appropriate.
- The Early Childhood Faculty Leader and Primary School Learning Support Coordinator may provide support to the teachers and parents in relation to pastoral care issues for students.
- The weekly faculty meeting provides an opportunity for teachers to discuss particular pastoral care needs of students and to undertake Child Studies for particular students.
- Child Studies may also be undertaken in College meetings.

2. PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

- The Primary School Class Teacher has primary responsibility for the pastoral care of primary school students in their class as they have extended daily contact with the students.
- The Class Teacher will work in collaboration with the student support staff and parents to plan and facilitate the pastoral care of the students when a need is identified.
- The Primary School Faculty Leader may provide support to the teachers and parents in relation to pastoral care issues for students.
- The weekly faculty meeting provides an opportunity for teachers to discuss particular pastoral care needs of students and to undertake Child Studies for particular students.
- Child Studies may also be undertaken in College meetings.

3. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- The High School Guardians have primary responsibility for the pastoral care of high school students. They will work in collaboration with the student support staff and parents to plan and facilitate the pastoral care of the students when a need is identified.
- The Guardians will, wherever possible, maintain responsibility for the same group of students from class 8 through to class 12.
- Wherever possible, there will be two Guardians for each class.
- Wherever possible, the Guardians will meet the students each day for morning circle and roll call and will also meet for one Guardian lesson with the group each week.
- The High School Faculty Leader may provide support to the Guardians and parents in relation to pastoral care and behaviour management issues for students.
- A Health and Social Education curriculum is delivered in specific lessons in classes 8 to 12.
- The weekly faculty meeting provides an opportunity for teachers to discuss particular pastoral care needs of students and to undertake Child Studies for particular students.
- Child Studies may also be undertaken in College meetings.

4. LEADERSHIP TEAM

Members of the Leadership Team are available for any student or staff member to speak to, to discuss any matter relating to pastoral care.

5. LEARNING SUPPORT AND WELLBEING STAFF

- Learning support staff in the primary and high school may provide support to students, teachers and parents in relation to the social and emotional needs of students as required.
- Extra Lesson opportunities are provided to students as required in the lower Primary School.
- Pastoral Care/Student Wellbeing Staff provide additional support for students experiencing personal or emotional challenges throughout the school.
- The School does not employ a School Counselor and cannot make recommendations for external providers to parents. However, the School may provide parents with recommendations for services/providers used by other parents.

RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTS

Related School Policies, Procedures and Guidelines	• STU001 – Child Safe Environments Policy • STU002 – Mandatory Notification Policy • STU003 – Personal Responsibility Policy (Behaviour Education and Support) • STU004 – Bullying and Harassment Prevention Policy • WHS001 – Work Health and Safety Policy • WHS003 – School Community Code of Conduct • WHS005 – Sexual Harassment Policy
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VARIATION AND REVIEW

The School reserves the right to vary, replace or terminate this policy from time to time. Unless altered earlier, this policy will be reviewed every three (3) years.

Responsible Person	Head of School
Policy Approver	Head of School
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