

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	The Armidale 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. Additionally, we have created a Wellbeing Team that is responsible for ensuring the proper ongoing administration of pastoral care services at the School. Our current WellbeingTeam is: • AJ Whalley- Director of Pastoral Care (dopc@as.edu.au) • Alix Goudge- School Counsellor • Richard Newton- School Chaplain • Luke Polson- Director of Studies • Jacki Fletcher- School Nurse • David Drain- Director of Boarding • Mark Harrison- Head of Middle School • Ian Lloyd- Head of Junior School
Key Pastoral Care Policies and Procedures	Our key pastoral care policies and procedures include: • providing a supportive environment and structures for students to promote them feeling safe, and ensuring the safety of others.
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**.

The Advisor System

We recognise that students benefit from the advice and experience of their peers. To this end, The Armidale School has in place a the Advisor program, facilitated by staff members. As part of this program, students meet with their Advisor (or in the younger years, homeroom teachers) for 20 minutes a day, four days per week. This is a pastoral program where students and staff have a forum to raise concerns, discuss matters effecting students and develop a rapport whereby students can go their advisor in the first instance for pastoral matters.

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.