

## PASTORAL CARE POLICY

### PURPOSE

Pastoral Care is an important aspect of Indie School. The school's Pastoral Care Policy outlines the need for providing a supportive environment for the mental, physical and emotional wellbeing of each student.

### POLICY

Indie School seeks to promote a healthy, supportive and secure environment for the students of the school. Student wellbeing and resilience are enhanced when there is a focus on the links between teacher expectations and relationships, classroom practices, school policies and mental, emotional and social health. Thus the school seeks to incorporate all aspects of school community life from student physical, intellectual, moral, social and emotional wellbeing and development, to the safe and supportive environment provided by staff who are professionally and emotionally supported in their roles.

#### **The Role of the Welfare Officer**

The Welfare Officer role is significant in the monitoring of welfare issues of the students. Students come to this school due to a range of issues that require experienced welfare and pastoral support. The Welfare Officer interviews all students during the enrolment process, and prior to confirmation of their enrolment. A confidential welfare profile is prepared for each student. The Welfare Officer will provide teaching and other staff with relevant information that will enable each student to be supported appropriately in the classroom.

Communication between the Welfare Officer and other staff is critical in providing the safe and supportive environment required for the student's emotional growth and development.

#### **The Role of all Staff**

All members of staff are providers of pastoral care. Practices and policy will involve the school community in consistent, comprehensive, multi-level activities that incorporate whole-school approaches, class or other group approaches, individual programs (eg early intervention) and casework. Staff will be provided with opportunities for professional learning that enhance their capacity to support students through well-planned and engaging learning activities.

#### **Notification of Concern for Student Welfare**

When a staff member has a welfare concern regarding a student, a *Referral of Student to Welfare* form should be completed and forwarded to the Welfare Officer. The Welfare Officer will arrange an interview with the student and, dependent upon the outcome of that interview, will prepare an appropriate plan of action for the student. This may include further counselling, referrals to support services, adjustments to the learning plan of the student and other measures that will support the student within the school environment.

## **Student Disclosure**

Where the welfare concern raised is due to potential risk to the safety of the student the staff member should seek assistance from the Welfare Officer as well as referring to the following school policies and documents, as appropriate, for further guidance:

- *Child Protection Policy*
- *Behaviour Support & Management Policy*
- *Staff Code of Conduct*