



Sacred Heart School, Petone

Pastoral Care Review
Manaakitanga
2013

With Christ the Good Shepherd as its model, the school community nurtures, supports and cares for individuals

To complete this Pastoral Care Review we surveyed Parents, staff and students.

We received 35 responses from school families, 11 from Staff and all the students were surveyed. The two Junior classes did the survey orally with their teachers. The responses were collated and recommendations for further development were written.

This review used the review and development focus points and examples of indicators in the manual developed by the NZ Catholic Education Office.

Areas for Review included:

- Relationships
- Organisation
- Bi-cultural Commitment
- Cultural Awareness
- Behaviour Management
- Safety

Relationships

- Parents are welcomed and encouraged to be involved in the life of the school.
- Positive feeling in the school.
- Staff professional development is encouraged, staff are valued, their needs recognised and acted upon and they feel supported in times of need.
- Caring atmosphere in the school.
- Cultural identities are respected and acknowledged.
- Support of Caritas and other charitable organisations on an annual basis.
- School recognises and celebrates children's achievements.
- Most staff and parents feel there is effective communication.
- The Management team listens to staff and most of the time there is a shared responsibility for decision making.
- Most parents feel comfortable talking to the Principal and staff about any concerns and issues.
- The school is sensitive to the individual needs of children and makes provision for them.
- The staff is loyal to the management.
- The staff show commitment to the students.

Areas to work on:

- Keep working on ways to communicate effectively and ensure that all parents are aware of school procedures/policies.
- Ensure parents are given feedback when concerns are raised.
- Invite staff and parents to give feedback when necessary.
- Ensure that confidentiality is respected and observed at all times by everyone in the community.
- Ensure that we act quickly and address all concerns as they are raised.
- Ensure that programmes are put in place to meet the needs of children who may be gifted and talented or need to be extended.

Organisation

- We believe that our pastoral care values are obvious through the way all people (students, parents, staff, visitors) are valued and looked after in our school
- We use all support agencies available to us eg Catholic Social Services, SVDP
- Staff willingly have meetings with parents or external support agencies when the need arises.
- Most staff meetings are productive.
- The Board governs the school effectively.
- The Board and Principal show a clear sense of direction.

Areas to work on:

- Ensuring that school organisation, policies and procedures are clearly explained to the school community.

Behaviour Management / Safety

- Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour.
- Well defined and understood Behaviour Management programme.
- Staff and parents feel that there are appropriate and fair discipline procedures and that children are treated fairly by staff.
- Restorative justice principles underpin the behaviour management processes.
- The school provides a safe environment for children- physically; emotionally; spiritually; socially; and, culturally.
- Children are happy at school and feel safe.
- Leadership is encouraged in the senior school.
- Health programmes that promote good self-esteem and respect for others are taught in the school eg DARE, Keeping Ourselves Safe, Life Education Trust, Cool Schools Peer Mediation (to be introduced in 2014)
- We have in place a well-structured safe school policy and also procedures to deal with issues of bullying.

Areas to work on:

- Ensure that all teachers have classroom programmes which support equity, justice and fairness.
- Constantly reinforce school values.
- Deal with issues as soon as they are brought to our attention.
- Look at the ways we talk to children. Allow time for response/ explanation.
- Follow school behaviour management processes consistently.
- Look at ways to ensure all parents are aware of processes and procedures.
- Introduction of Cool Schools Peer Mediation Programme in 2014.
- Ensure that children are aware of who they can speak to if they have a problem.

Special Character

- The school ethos is well understood by the staff and the school works well as a Christian Community.
- There is an awareness and sensitivity to families' situations.
- Liturgies and the Sacramental life of the school is important to all.
- Staff lead by example.
- The staff support the Christian values of the school.
- Children are encouraged to be involved with the community.
- The school works with the parish which supports Pastoral Care at school through SVDP.
- Strong support of Caritas.
- Pastoral Care is based on Catholic social teaching and the dignity of the individual is the most important consideration in any help or support given.
- Parents donate money to the school to help with Pastoral Care.

Areas to work on:

- Constant reinforcement of school values for everyone students, parents and staff.

Recommendations for Further Development

Over the next year the school will work on the following recommendations, which have arisen from the review of Pastoral Care:

- Review behaviour management plan, look at classroom management practices, class treaties, ensure we deal with all children fairly and follow school behaviour processes consistently
- Ensure that children are aware of who they can speak to if they have a problem
- Ensure all concerns are acted upon and parents are informed of outcomes. Provide and seek feedback from staff and community.
- Keep working on effective ways to communicate with all parents particularly around procedures and policies.
- Ensure that **all** cultures are acknowledged
- Review our processes and procedures to ensure we meet the needs of children who may be gifted and talented or need to be extended.
- Introduce the Cool Schools Peer mediation Programme in 2014
- Develop the Te Ao Māori Curriculum at Sacred Heart .