



## PASTORAL CARE POLICY

*"The School's policies which are made from time to time are made pursuant to the requirements set out in section 47 of the Education Act and of the Board of Studies for registration for the school."*

### 1.0 Policy Statement

Pastoral care is a concerted effort on the part of Sherwood Hills Christian School and its staff. Thus the objective of the Pastoral care program is to help nurture and develop an individual in every facet of life, so that he or she can bring honour to God.

### 2.0 Scope

The Pastoral care program is under the direct supervision of the Headmaster and the school Chaplain. Pastoral care exists in the school as an integral part of the ministry of the school which includes pastoral care and Biblical counselling. Our Pastoral care is offered to the students and staff. It may also include their families.

### 3.0 Philosophy

Our philosophy of Pastoral Care is based solely on Biblical precepts and principles found in the Bible. Understanding that the Bible is the final authority in matters pertaining to life; therefore the philosophy of our school is distinctively Christian. The Pastoral care carried out will be in line with the Biblical measures as understood by Sherwood Hills Christian School.

Our counsel and Pastoral care is then a combination of counsel based on God's word and care demonstrated by God's love demonstrated through each of our staff.

All counsel provided is of a confidential nature to be in line with the privacy policy of the school to protect the students.

### 4.0 Implementation

Pastoral care and Biblical counselling in the first instance will then be referred to the Headmaster who will determine the appropriate course of action in consultation with the Chaplain and other stakeholders.



## **5.0 Availability of and Access to Special Services**

- Pastoral care exists since the school is a Christian school which includes regular pastoral care and Biblical counselling.
- Small classes exist within departmental units with each child under close supervision by teachers.
- Children are in other ministries of various churches outside of school and in close connection with pastors, youth leaders, staff and carers.
- Staff interact with students informally at lunch and in the playground.
- Special school activity days and excursions are organised on a regular basis to provide further opportunities for pastoral care and relationship building.

### **5.1 Identification of Students with Special Needs**

#### *Policy*

Sherwood Hills Christian School aims to identify any student with special needs (not already identified at the time of enrolment).

#### *Procedures*

Children identified as students with special needs will be referred to the Headmaster. A decision will be made in consultation with the parents as to what steps to take in relation to the identification of any learning needs.

### **5.2 Provision of Support for Students with Special Needs**

#### *Policy*

Sherwood Hills Christian School aims to meet all student needs that cannot be addressed solely through the support of the classroom teacher. Special support and services as listed under *Availability of and access to special services such as Biblical counselling* will be lovingly increased with students with special needs as part of the school meeting its Biblical ministry.



### *Procedures*

- Consultation with parents and educational professionals (if appropriate) will occur
- An Individualised Education Plan will be developed.
- Appropriate and reasonable adjustments will be made to facilitate participation in all school activities.
- Curriculum Learning Activities will be accessible.
- Assessment procedures will be adjusted as necessary.
- School support services as agreed will be provided
- Professional development courses for staff will be available to staff.

### **6.0 Policy Review Statement**

The Policy for Pastoral Care is to be reviewed annually.

To be reviewed 21 January 2020

***The Headmaster is responsible for the updating of this policy document.***