

OVERVIEW

PASTORAL CARE



CORNERSTONE
COLLEGE

Christ our Firm Foundation

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Pastoral Care Philosophy

We are a caring Christian community nurturing within students a growing relationship with Christ which promotes individual excellence, learning and responsibility, for life.

We are all equal in God's eyes and he has given each of us unique talents. We are therefore all responsible for:

- Helping to make the College a safe and supportive place
- Learning to the best of our ability
- Participating in College activities
- Enjoying and caring for the facilities offered by the College

Underpinning Philosophies

We love, we learn, we grow on a daily basis; physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually.

Pastoral Care may contribute in the following ways:

- Building and maintaining positive educational relationships
- Creating a culture of care
- Recognising that effective 'power' lies within the relationship (not through hierarchy or punishment)
- Utilising Restorative Practices
- Involving all parties (eg. Teacher/Student) in reaching resolution
- Recognising that actions have consequences
- Setting high expectations for our learning and behaviour

Links to Learning

Students who have quality relationships with each other and their teachers will flourish in their learning. Pastoral Care at Cornerstone is pivotal in promoting a positive and caring educational culture where students feel safe and connected, allowing them to holistically develop and grow. Students thrive in a creative and stimulating learning environment with an awareness of their own abilities, achievements and worth. Students who are valued, cared for and listened to are well equipped to fulfil their academic potential within the Cornerstone College learning community.

Hope, Connect, Serve

As we **love, learn and grow** we want our students to develop their capacity to hope, connect, serve:

Hope

- Grounds for believing that something good may happen
- A feeling of expectation and desire
- A person or thing that may help or save someone
- Confidence · faith · trust · belief · conviction · assurance
- A feeling of trust

You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety. Job 11:18 (NIV)

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. Psalm 62:5-6 (NIV)

How can we foster positivity for the future?

- Share the good news of the grace of our God
- Encourage each other in our efforts to achieve our best
- Have high expectations of self
- Set SMART goals
- Acknowledge and celebrate achievement
- Show gratitude for the good things in our lives
- Support those who are in difficulty
- Focus on the action/behaviour, rather than the person

Connect

- To relate to, or be in harmony with another person, group or entity
- To join, link, fasten together or unite
- To establish communication
- To associate mentally or emotionally

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16 (NIV)

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. John 17:20-21 (NIV)

Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. Philippians 3:17 (NIV)

How can we develop meaningful connections?

- Interact positively, in good faith and restoratively with all members of our community
- Actively listen to others during discussion
- Actively participate in Home Group, House meetings and events
- Interact positively within our paired Home Group, including with our buddy or mentor
- Learn about other people, both within and outside our community
- Acknowledge and celebrate difference
- Engage in daily devotional time to continue our faith journey

Serve

- To act as a servant
- To render assistance; be of use; help
- To perform designated duties

Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Matthew 20:26-28 (NIV)

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me. John 12:26 (NIV)

How can we meaningfully serve others within community?

- Put others before ourselves, recognising those in need and taking action
- Participate in awareness programs to develop compassion and understanding for those less fortunate
- Support fundraising initiatives and, more importantly, seek an understanding of the cause
- Contribute within the extra-curricular program
- Use our personal gifts and talents to help others
- Embrace opportunities to contribute in regular and paired Home Group
- Participate in service activities promoted at the College
- Assist and contribute through small actions
- Use leadership roles to represent the student body and make positive changes

We intentionally build this culture through:

- Providing all members of the Cornerstone community with trustworthy people who encourage the desire to strive to be their best
- Recognising and celebrating success in all facets of students' lives
- Nurturing positive self-talk and student self-belief
- Promoting positive relationships between students, staff and parents
- Repairing broken relationships through utilising a restorative approach
- Nurturing links to the local community and developing global awareness
- Viewing opportunities to lead in terms of service, rather than gaining status or accolades
- Promotion of service opportunities available at Cornerstone. Examples include:
 - Student Environment Council (SEC)
 - Student Representative Council (SRC)
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Australian Lutheran World Service
 - Mentoring programs
- Serving the Cornerstone community in small, but important ways. Examples include:
 - Being a positive role model
 - Leading Home Group devotions
 - Engaging in Home Group devotions
 - Assuming leadership in Home Group

Restorative Practices

At Cornerstone College we seek to build a safe, caring and positive community. We use an approach called Restorative Practices that acknowledges that healthy relationships are essential for our lives, our learning and our community.

Restorative Practices encourage a profound fairness and a culture of listening across our community to bring healing and a sense of connection.

All staff and students are expected to be supportive of, and participate in Restorative Practices when they are involved in a conflict, complaint or issue of concern. Core Beliefs of Restorative Practices:

- Conflict causes harm.
- Misbehaviours that bring disruptions to classrooms (and the hurtful behaviours that are often associated with conflict) are not in keeping with College expectations and result in harm to our school community.
- Fight or flight are generally inappropriate responses to conflict. Conflict needs to be addressed by all parties, preferably face-to-face.
- People involved in a conflict, wrongdoing or misbehaviour need to be actively involved in the process of resolution. Imposed solutions or punishments can be less effective and less educative.
- Using Restorative Practices is not a “soft option”. Core values include respect, inclusion, accountability and commitment to relationships.
- Students learn social and emotional skills they will use throughout their lives, such as active listening, facilitating dialogue, problem-solving, expressing emotion appropriately, developing personal awareness, empathy and taking responsibility.
- Consequences, such as detention, community service or suspension, are still used in Restorative Practices for students to consider what they can do to make things right and to help people move on.

We will use Restorative Practices if a student:

- Is experiencing bullying
- Is having trouble settling in class
- Has broken a College expectation
- Has caused harm to someone
- Has a concern about, or is experiencing conflict with a teacher or another student
- Feels he or she has been unfairly treated

With Restorative Practices staff use questions such as:

- What has happened?
- What were you thinking at the time?
- Who has been affected, and in what way?
- What has it been like for you since this happened?
- What needs to happen to make things right?

There are a variety of Restorative Practices in action across the College:

- Restorative Chats – informal conversations between teachers and students for prevention of and early intervention for low-level disruptions.
- Class Meetings – a restorative model that helps a class establish good “boundaries” and a healthy learning culture.
- Support from Student Services – helping students and staff address issues in restorative ways. Restorative Conversations and “Think Sheets” may be among these processes.
- Group Conferences – an effective process involving structured mediation, used formally and semi-formally to deal with conflict and serious issues. Conferences aim to resolve a problem - not to blame people.

God has done it all! He sent Christ to make peace between himself and us, and he has given us the work of making peace between himself and others. What we mean is that God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world. And he has given us the work of sharing his message about peace.

2 Corinthians 5: 18, 19

Home Group and House Structure

Each student belongs to a Home Group of around 18-20 students. A Middle School Home Group consists of students in Years 7-9 whilst a Senior School Home Group of students in Years 10-12. Each Middle School Home Group will meet with its paired "big brother / sister" Senior School Home Group each fortnight, enabling peer mentoring and an eventual smooth transition to Senior School.

Each of our four Houses comprises 6 Middle School and 6 Senior School Home Groups, led by two staff House Leaders.

Aroona (blue) meaning 'running water'

Battunga (green) meaning 'a place of large trees'

Moorak (red) meaning 'mountains'

Naturi (yellow) meaning 'sandy soil'



Daily Organisation

Home Group meets every day, and twice a week for an extended period. Every Cornerstone student will also be involved in a Middle or Senior School Chapel, a Whole School Chapel and a House meeting each week, hearing the gospel message on a daily basis.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Middle School	Middle School Chapel	Extended Home Group	House	Whole School Chapel	Extended Home Group (PAIRED HG each even week)
Senior School	Extended Home Group	Senior School Chapel			

Student Leadership

College Leaders

Six College Leaders form a team that is made up from at least one student from each of the four houses. Their role includes representing the College and creating opportunities to link the Middle and Senior Schools.



House Leaders

Each House, as per the diagram below, will have four Middle School and four Senior School House Leaders per house (16 for Middle School, 16 for Senior School). Their role includes upholding and enhancing House culture and values, and encouraging students to participate in House activities and events. They will each have an additional focus area – Service and Outreach, Devotional Life, House Culture or Home Group Development.



Each of the roles, College Leaders and House Leaders, commence at the beginning of Term 4 with the selection process beginning early in Term 3.

Student Representative Council (SRC)

The SRC is a forum that provides opportunities for students to formally discuss matters associated with College life and facilitate the organisation of particular student activities within the College.

The representatives attend regular meetings and act as the liaison between the Staff Leaders and the general student body. Each House will aim to have one SRC representative per year level. As far as possible a balance of genders will be sought. The SRC has representation on the College Canteen and Uniform Committees.

Additional Student Support

Counselling

Students requiring extra guidance can arrange to meet with College Counsellors Mr Matt Schirmer or Ms Katy Walker, by visiting the counsellor's office in the Paideia building, emailing helpandsupport@cornerstone.sa.edu.au or completing an appointment form at Student Reception. Further referral to external support may be recommended in some cases.

Ministry

As a Christian College built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, Cornerstone College is intentional in maintaining this vital focus within the daily life of the school. The Ministry Team, made up of College Pastor (Albert Gast) and College Chaplain (Andrew Traeger), support this vision in coordinating and delivering a number of key spiritual components to College life, including chapel and Home Group devotions, to encourage the gracious message of the Gospel.

Student Care Team

The Student Care Team is a group that meets weekly to formulate support plans or direction for students requiring extra assistance, be it pastoral or academic. The SCT includes the following staff members:

Principal, Wellbeing Director, Learning Director, Counsellor, Adaptive Education Leader, VET Coordinator and Student Receptionists.

Further questions?

For more information regarding Pastoral Care at Cornerstone College you can contact our Pastoral Care Leaders on 08 8398 6000, or directly through email:

Wellbeing Director, Jamie Cameron: jcameron@cornerstone.sa.edu.au

Middle School Wellbeing Leader, Leanne Filmer: lfilmer@cornerstone.sa.edu.au

Senior School Wellbeing Leader, Justin Kerber: jkerber@cornerstone.sa.edu.au