Structures and processes:

- A strong sense of pride and belonging to school and House exists across all year levels
- Pastoral Care classes are close knit supportive environments with a range of students from Years 7 to 12 in each class
- Students and their Pastoral Care teacher share the entire secondary journey together
- A strong Inter-House competition exists with a healthy rivalry and rich traditions
- Pastoral Care groups meet every morning promoting student wellbeing and positive relationships
- An additional Pastoral Care lesson each week is dedicated to topics such as bullying, resilience, cyber safety, study habits, peer relationships and healthy lifestyle.
- A genuine empathy for those less fortunate is developed through awareness and fund-raising campaigns

Care and concern:

Pastoral Care encompasses a holistic approach to each and every student’s education where the needs of the whole person are addressed. Students are supported and challenged to achieve their best academically, culturally, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Pastoral Care develops students by giving them a support network of peers and school staff to meet their needs as they work through their secondary school years.

- Pastoral Care teachers have a genuine empathy for their students
- House Leaders are especially trained in mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice and behaviour support
- Guidance Counsellors, support teachers and Campus Minister collaborate with Pastoral Care Teachers and House Leaders to provide a comprehensive support network for all students
Pastoral Care is extremely important for the students of today. In today’s ever-changing world, students are engaging with an increasing number of influences through social media and other technologies. This can convey a misguided or skewed set of morals, ethics, and beliefs. The experiences faced by our students are vastly different to the generations that went before them. St Mary’s College has a rich tradition of excellence in education by not only focusing on academics but also on the spiritual, physical, cultural, and emotional needs of our students. Pastoral Care is at the core of this philosophy of education.

Pastoral care provides a network of support in the following areas:

- **Spiritual** – Christian beliefs, values, and morals are an integral part of our community
- **Physical** – Promoting a healthy and active lifestyle
- **Academic** – Every child is challenged to be their very best
- **Cultural** – A range of enriching experiences expand horizons
- **Emotional** – Support networks and positive relationships are always fostered

**Year 7 – The Spirit of Welcome**

New relationships, new friends, new teachers and new networks are formed as our Year 7 students transition into Secondary School. The students are welcomed to the St Mary’s College learning community and they attend a ‘survivor’ style camp which focuses on group dynamics and bonding together as a cohort.

**Year 8 – The Spirit of Belonging**

Students are encouraged to realise they are part of something bigger than the individual, building pride in themselves and pride in their school. Our students attend a discovery camp on Fraser Island where they learn about our indigenous heritage and reconcile this with the society and culture we have today.

**Year 9 – The Spirit of Leadership**

By examining their own qualities and attributes, our students aspire to take on a leadership role in the College. Building on strengths and upskilling in areas of weakness occurs through personal reflection and review. Students undertake a journey to our Nation’s Capital where they scrutinise leaders of the past, visit national icons and analyse the modern democracy.

**Year 10 – The Spirit of Lifelong Learning**

In looking beyond the present, students envisage a future where they are healthily engaged in citizenship and employment and continue to learn throughout their lives. A week-long immersion in work placement, vocational skills, post-school study and life skills engenders in our students an optimism for the future while keeping their minds focused on the present.

**Year 11 – The Spirit of Service to Others**

“We are called to Serve” is the theme of the Year 11 Camp at Noosa’s North Shore. Students are continually challenged to look beyond the self and recognise and act on the needs of the broader community. Throughout the year our students develop an empathy and understanding of the plight of others which culminates in their application for senior leadership positions at the College.

**Year 12 – The Spirit of Community**

Through a broad range of rich experiences, the Seniors of the College are prepared for life beyond school while supporting each other through the rigours of Year 12. By engaging in student leadership, our Seniors come to appreciate and understand their responsibilities as role models in the community and the importance of leaving a positive legacy for others to follow.