



Adopted by the Board of Governors September 2015

Signed: _____ Chair

Pastoral Care Policy

Adopted at Board of Governors' meeting, October 2018

Pastoral Care Policy

Rationale

We define Pastoral Care as the created ethos through which our pupils develop and learn to their optimum potential. We provide the opportunity for every pupil to develop into responsible, self-aware, confident and capable young people equipped to cope with the challenges of the 21st century. Our school accepts that Pastoral Care must form the basis of, and permeate, all aspects of the curriculum.

Visions and Values

Our school subscribes to the view that every pupil has the right to feel safe and secure on all levels. We will actively promote a Pastoral Care ethos which allows for the development of the whole person, and which leads to every pupil making good choices which will form the basis for a healthy and positive lifestyle.

Pastoral Care will be the setting where our young people will acquire values and standards on the basis of observing these at work at every level.

It is also important to remember that schools are centres of education and we therefore accept the validity of a personal development approach rather than a delivery which is service driven.

Ethos

Ethos is an intangible concept with a tangible effect. It is our intention to establish an ethos which may be detected in the feelings of security at every level within our school.

This may be achieved through:

- Creating a sense of belonging amongst all strands of our school community
- Developing an atmosphere of mutual respect and caring

- Implementation of a Positive Behaviour Policy which creates a full sense of justice and fair play amongst our school community
- Providing opportunities for every person to succeed and to be affirmed in their self-worth,
- promoting positive relationships at every level
- working with parents for the mutual benefit of all
- establishing and maintaining links with the wider community
- affirming and actively promoting staff to develop positive attitudes towards themselves and to the pupils in our care
- creating a sense of self-worth at every level
- assemblies which deal with a range of pastoral issues
- appropriate adult supervision of play areas at break and lunch time, with particular attention to prevent bullying
- supervision of pupils in the morning and at home time to ensure safe departure from the school premises
- integrating special needs children with other children

Our school will work towards creating opportunities where mutual respect can grow and develop. We aim to create a caring, empathetic and secure environment where our young people can develop good relationships based on those they experience.

Curriculum provision for Pastoral Care

In planning curricular provision for pastoral care the staff will use the following range of teaching materials:

Grow in Love series:

The content of the programme explores doctrine, prayer, liturgical and sacramental initiation, moral education and the children's experiences. The content lends itself to helping children to become more aware of themselves and the people around them. This is important for their personal and moral development. Through the programme we help them to know themselves, accept themselves, to have confidence in themselves, to communicate their experiences, both pleasant and unpleasant, so that they can relate to the world, to others and to God.

Assembly and Morning Prayer:

Each class undertakes one assembly per term during which aspects of pastoral care eg. bullying, sharing, telling the truth, etc. alongside topical themes are dealt with and shared with all classes. The Principal also addresses the pupils on these occasions in relation to pastoral care and recognition is given to those pupils who have shown exemplary behaviour throughout the week as well as for academic achievement. Awards take the form of certificates, points for the "House System" and personalised school pencils.

Each morning the teaching staff and pupils gather for prayers led by the Principal and aspects of pastoral care are dealt with if the need arises, eg. if there has been an incident the day before and the children need to be made aware of an issue, eg. stranger danger.

Personal Development (formerly known as Personal Development and Mutual Understanding)

This area of the N.I. Curriculum is designed to develop children's personal, emotional, social and health needs. They are encouraged to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives and to become confident, independent and responsible citizens, making informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives. It is facilitated by a learning toolkit known as the "Rainbow Box" which is available for all classes. Some classes also engage in "Circle Time" which is a structured, regular occasion when a class group meets in a circle and takes part in games and activities designed to increase self-awareness, awareness of others, self-esteem, co-operation, trust and listening skills. It helps everyone to understand their feelings and what is important to them and it aims to encourage greater tolerance of each other's opinions. The ethos of Circle Time is positive, encouraging and non-judgmental. In the school year 2018/19 the PATHS programme is being introduced.

Counselling/Relationships

The designated teacher for pastoral care in St. Jarlath's Primary School is Mrs. Jacqueline Campbell. At the same time, all teachers will endeavour to build effective, empathetic relationships with our pupils in order to provide advice and support whenever necessary. However we retain awareness of the need for other avenues of support.

Training and Support

In order to support staff our school recognizes the importance of training as a priority area in the establishment of a caring and pastoral environment.

Record keeping and administration

An information form is kept for all pupils containing contact phone numbers, in order of priority. Medical forms have also been filled in by parents.

Each class teacher maintains an Accident Book and an Incident Book. The Accident Book is a record of all accidents which occur during which there has been some physical injury sustained by a child and how the event was managed - what happened, when and where it happened, who administered to the child and the level of parent involvement. The Incident Book records any concerns a teacher may have about a child when there has been a dispute or serious misunderstanding between pupils. Again, details of those involved, what took place and how it was resolved are recorded.

Communication with parents

Parents receive copies of all Pastoral policies when their child starts school. Every two years a summary leaflet re Pastoral Care/Child Protection which includes safe use of the internet is sent out to all parents. All policies are also reviewed regularly and are available to parents. Updated policies are placed on the School Website.

Related School Policies

This policy is set within the broader school context of Pastoral Care and as such should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Misuse of Drugs/Substances Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Administration of Medicines
- Acceptable use of the Internet Policy
- Relationships and Sexuality
- The Use of Reasonable Force/Safe Handling
- Mobile Phone Policy
- Special Education Needs Policy

Evaluation and Monitoring:

This school recognises and accepts the importance of monitoring and evaluating all aspects of Pastoral Care at every level. All groups involved in the school: pupils, parents, staff and governors will be asked to share their views. This may be done in focus groups, class workshops, through the use of questionnaires or informal interviews. Circulars from DENI, EA and CCMS will also be taken account of.

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