

Donaghmore Primary School Pastoral Care Policy

Pastoral Care is a set of systems, procedures and programmes set in place to address the social, spiritual, mental, emotional and physical needs of children in school.

The quality of Pastoral Care influences the ethos and tone of the whole school. It creates an atmosphere in which children feel secure, know that they are valued and are encouraged in their learning, growth and social development within a healthy and safe environment.

It will inform and reassure parents that their children are being educated in a safe and caring atmosphere.

Pastoral Care in this school is based on the principles of good relationships and mutual respect.

The Board of Governors, Principal and all staff, teaching and non-teaching, have a responsibility for Pastoral Care.

Aims

1. To provide a warm, welcoming, caring and safe environment for all.
2. To provide a caring Christian environment.
3. To encourage children to respect and value themselves, other people and the environment.
4. To develop the interpersonal skills of our pupils to enable them to work both independently and collaboratively, to develop relationships and to resolve conflict appropriately.
5. To promote good relationships and communication within school and build strong collaborative partnerships with families and the local community.
6. To build an understanding of factors that contribute to a healthy lifestyle and personal safety.

Pastoral Care Provision

Staff will adhere to the agreed Pastoral Care policies.

Enrolment

During the summer term, the children and the parents of pupils who will be starting in Primary 1 in the following September, will be invited to spend a morning in school. This will give the children the chance to meet their new teacher and other children in the class but will also provide an opportunity to start building open relationships with new parents, inform them of school policies and procedures and offer the opportunity to ask any questions.

When enrolling older children, the principal will meet with their parents.

When enrolling a child in school, parents will be requested to complete a data capture form in which they will outline contact telephone numbers and medical advice. They will also be asked to complete a Parental Permission Record. This record will outline procedures for Child Protection and ask parents to indicate if they give permission for their child to be included in photographs and videos in school, and whether or not they give permission for a sticky plaster to be used if their child receives a cut or graze. Attention will be drawn to the necessity for parents to contact school should any details change.

New families will be directed to the school website where copies of The Child Protection Policy, Positive Behaviour Policy, Anti Bullying Policy, Pastoral Care Policy and the Attendance Policy will be available. Printed copies of this policies will be available on request.

Parents

There will be ongoing formal and informal consultation with parents regarding any matters of concern for pupils' welfare. There will be an 'open door' policy in school although parents will be encouraged to talk to teachers outside class contact times.

Parents will have the opportunity to attend two formal parent/teacher consultations during the school year and one written report will be issued in the summer term.

Parents will regularly be kept informed of forthcoming events. The calendar on the school website will be kept up-to-date and a parent texting service will be used.

Healthy Choices

To observe the healthy break policy, children will be allowed to bring food to eat at break from a list of options provided for parents. The options will follow advice from the Department of Education and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Children will be encouraged to drink water throughout the school day. They may bring their own bottles of water to school or use the drinking fountain located outside the staffroom. Milk will be sold in school and pre ordered at the beginning of each term.

Sporting activities will be a feature of after-school clubs.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

The school will fulfil the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum in relation to Personal Development and Mutual Understanding. As far as possible, lesson themes will be linked to class World Around Us topics. Strategies for teaching PDMU will include the use of stories and poems, circle time and ICT.

Links will be maintained with

- school nurse
- EWO
- PSNI
- Fire Service
- ROSPA
- NSPCC

Where possible and when needed, sessions will be arranged in which representatives will work with groups of children.

Children will be encouraged to share their thoughts, ideas and/or concerns with staff in school.

School rules, written by the children, will be taught in class.

School rules will also be reinforced during school assemblies and children will be recognised for showing kindness to others.

Community Links

Links will continue to be developed with

- St Patrick's Primary School, Donaghmore.
- local churches.
- Bardic, Educational and Arts Media (BEAM).
- Lollipop Playgroup.
- The Torrent Complex Donaghmore.
- Donaghmore Horticultural Society.
- St Joseph's Grammar School Donaghmore, Drumglass High School, the Integrated College Dungannon and the Royal School Dungannon.
- Corkhill Care Home.
- Pomeroy and Castlecaulfield schools.

Non-Class Supervision

Supervision levels before school, break and lunch times will meet, and very often exceed, the requirements set down by the EA.

Sickness and injury

At least one member of staff will be trained in EA approved First Aid Procedures. If a child receives a minor injury in school, a parent will be informed before or at home-time. Details of the accident will be recorded on a record sheet. If a more serious injury is incurred, a parent will be contacted immediately and if deemed necessary, arrangements made for the child to be taken to Accident and Emergency. The teacher/supervisor at the time of the accident will complete an EA Accident Sheet.

Conclusion

Our school's Pastoral Care policies are grounded in the belief that each child in our care deserves the best that we can provide. Pastoral Care is fully integrated into the school's daily routines, its curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required.