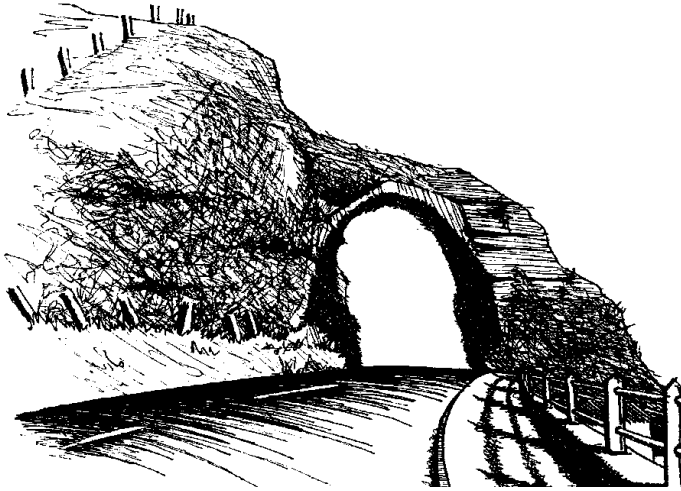


St Patrick's Primary School, Glenariff



Pastoral Care Policy

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Policy Date: December 2025
Review Date: December 2029

Contents

Section	Page Number
St Patrick's Primary School Ethos	1-2
Rationale	2
Aims	2-3
Pastoral Care Provision	3
Role of Staff	3-4
Teaching and Learning Methodology	4-5
Liaison with Parents	5
External Support	5-6
Staff Development	6
Monitoring and Evaluation	6-7
Related Policies	7
Responsibility for Pastoral Care	7
Review	8

St Patrick's Primary School Ethos

Our school ethos is the foundation of everything we do - shaping our culture, guiding our decisions, and inspiring our community. It reflects who we are, what we stand for, and the kind of environment we strive to create for every child, every day.

This ethos was thoughtfully developed through a collaborative process involving pupil, parent, staff, and governor surveys; pupil and parent focus groups; dedicated staff development sessions; and guidance from the Catholic Schools' Support Service. Together, these voices helped shape a shared vision and set of values that truly represent our school community.

Vision

At the heart of our ethos is our **vision**:

'A welcoming and nurturing community, where every child is guided by faith, feels a true sense of belonging, grows with confidence, flourishes through engaging teaching, and develops a lifelong love of learning'.

Values

Our **Values** reflect what we believe in and how we live each day:

Child-Centred

Children are at the heart of our school - nurturing their wellbeing, independence, curiosity, and individuality.

Healthy Relationships

We build trusting, respectful relationships that support emotional wellbeing, collaboration, and lifelong friendships.

Inclusive

We grow together as a welcoming, inclusive school community where everyone feels they belong and contributes positively.

Lifelong Learners

We empower every child to reach their potential, celebrate their successes, and persevere through challenges.

Devoted to Kindness & Compassion

We treat others with care, empathy, fairness and understanding, creating a safe and supportive environment.

Mission

At our school, we are a welcoming and nurturing community where everyone is guided by faith and feels a true sense of belonging.

Every child is valued, supported, and encouraged to grow in confidence, kindness and curiosity. Through supportive teaching and strong relationships, we help children flourish - celebrating their uniqueness, nurturing their wellbeing, and guiding them to achieve their full potential.

Motto

And our **Motto** captures the essence of our commitment:

‘Every Child Matters, Every Moment Counts.’

Together, these elements form a living ethos - one that is felt in our classrooms, our playgrounds, and our relationships. It is a promise to our children, families, and staff that we will continue to grow as a community rooted in faith, compassion, and excellence.

Rationale

Pastoral Care is central to the ethos of our Catholic school and underpins all aspects of school life. Rooted in Gospel values and the teachings of Christ, it affirms the dignity and worth of every individual. Our approach is holistic - nurturing each child spiritually, morally, emotionally, socially, intellectually, and physically - in line with our shared vision and values. We recognise that effective learning flourishes in an environment where children feel safe, valued, respected, and supported. This policy reflects our commitment to creating such an environment, guided by faith and inspired by our ethos: **‘Every Child Matters, Every Moment Counts.’**

Aims

The aims of our pastoral care policy reflect our commitment to nurturing the whole child and fostering a school environment where every pupil feels safe, valued and empowered. These aims guide our daily practice and help ensure that pastoral care is embedded across all aspects of school life.

Our pastoral care aims to:

- Promote self-esteem, resilience, and emotional well-being.
- Encourage positive relationships and mutual respect.
- Support children in making responsible choices.
- Provide a broad, balanced curriculum that meets individual needs.

- Celebrate diversity and promote inclusion.
- Prepare pupils to be responsible citizens who contribute positively to society.
- Nurture spiritual development in line with Gospel values and Catholic teaching.
- Work in partnership with families and the wider community to support pupil wellbeing.
- Ensure a safe, supportive environment where safeguarding is a shared responsibility.

Pastoral Care Provision

Pastoral care at our school is not a standalone initiative - it is woven into the fabric of daily life and reflects our commitment to nurturing every child. Through a wide range of experiences, routines, and relationships, we create an environment where pupils feel safe, supported, and valued. These provisions are designed to promote wellbeing, foster inclusion, and build a strong sense of community, ensuring that our ethos - rooted in faith, compassion, and belonging - is lived out in practical and meaningful ways.

Pastoral care is embedded in daily routines and supported through:

- Regular assemblies and class liturgies.
- Circle Time, Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU), Religious Education (RE), and Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) lessons.
- Involvement in Roots of Empathy and Take 5 activities.
- Participation in Anti-Bullying Week, Internet Safety Day, Catholic Schools Week, and charity events.
- Emotional check-ins (e.g. feelings charts/boxes).
- Leadership roles (e.g. School Council, Eco Committee, Wellbeing Champions, Addressing Bullying Ambassadors).
- Friendship groups and social skills interventions.
- Positive behaviour and reward systems (e.g. Class Dojos, Principal's Awards).
- Celebrations of achievement both in and out of school.
- Extra-curricular activities (e.g. sports, music, clubs).

Role of Staff

Pastoral care is a shared responsibility across our school community. All staff play a vital role in creating a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment where every child feels valued and supported. In line with our vision - *a welcoming and nurturing community where every child grows with confidence and flourishes through engaging teaching* - staff help to embed our ethos through their daily interactions, teaching practices, and relationships. By modelling our core values of kindness,

inclusion, and healthy relationships, staff ensure that pastoral care is consistently and meaningfully delivered.

Teaching Staff

Teachers contribute to pastoral care by:

- Creating a climate of mutual respect and trust within the classroom.
- Identifying and responding to pupils' emotional, social, and behavioural needs.
- Promote inclusive practices and foster a culture where bullying is actively prevented, addressed with compassion, and replaced by respectful relationships.
- Using varied teaching strategies to support holistic development.
- Providing opportunities for pupil voice and participation.
- Delivering programmes such as *Helping Hands*, *Grow in Love*, and *Flourish*, that support emotional and spiritual development.

Support Staff

Classroom assistants, supervisory staff, and administrative staff:

- Build positive relationships with pupils through daily interactions.
- Support children's emotional regulation and social development.
- Help maintain a safe and welcoming school environment.
- Communicate concerns sensitively and promptly to relevant staff.

School Leadership

Senior leaders and pastoral leads:

- Set the tone for a caring and inclusive school culture.
- Ensure pastoral care is embedded in policies, planning, and staff development.
- Monitor provision and respond to emerging needs across the school.
- Liaise with families and external agencies to support pupil wellbeing.

Teaching and Learning Methodology

Our approach to teaching and learning is rooted in our ethos - placing children at the heart of all we do and fostering a culture of curiosity, confidence, and compassion. We aim to create learning experiences that support the whole child, encouraging personal growth, emotional wellbeing, and a lifelong love of learning. Through inclusive, reflective, and values-led teaching, we strive to ensure that every pupil feels engaged, supported, and empowered.

We aim to:

- Reassure pupils and build confidence through nurturing relationships and supportive teaching.
- Encourage motivation, curiosity, and commitment to learning.

- Promote achievement through appropriate challenge and compassionate support.
- Allow pupils to explore attitudes, values, and moral understanding in line with Gospel teachings.
- Develop personal and interpersonal skills, and provide time for reflection and growth.
- Use a range of inclusive teaching styles to meet diverse learning needs and celebrate individuality.
- Integrate pastoral themes across the curriculum to support emotional wellbeing, spiritual development, and social awareness.

Liaison with Parents

We believe that strong, respectful partnerships with parents and carers are essential to nurturing every child's wellbeing, growth, and learning. Guided by our ethos of faith, inclusion, and compassion, we strive to build open, trusting relationships with families - ensuring they feel welcomed, heard, and valued as key members of our school community.

We aim to:

- Communicate regularly and transparently with parents.
- Involve parents in school life and decision-making.
- Support families in addressing concerns and celebrating successes.
- Encourage parental involvement in homework and learning.
- Ensure parents feel confident approaching staff with concerns, knowing they will be met with empathy and discretion.
- Collaborate with parents to support children's emotional wellbeing and personal development.

External Support

We recognise that supporting every child's wellbeing and development is a shared responsibility. In keeping with our ethos of compassion, inclusion, and lifelong learning, we work in close partnership with a range of external agencies to ensure that children and families receive the specialist support they need. These collaborations strengthen our pastoral care provision and help us respond to the diverse needs of our school community with empathy, expertise, and respect.

We work collaboratively with external agencies, including:

- Educational Psychology and Behaviour Support Services
- Health professionals (e.g. school nurse, speech therapists)
- PSNI and Road Safety teams

- Parish clergy and chaplaincy services
- Community and voluntary organisations
- Inclusion and Diversity Service, Autism Support, and Education Welfare Officer (EWO)

Staff Development

We believe that nurturing the wellbeing and growth of our staff is essential to delivering high-quality pastoral care. Rooted in our ethos of lifelong learning, collaboration, and compassion, we are committed to supporting staff in their professional and personal development. We provide meaningful opportunities for reflection, training, and growth - empowering staff to build strong relationships, respond to children's needs with empathy, and continually enhance their pastoral skills.

Staff are supported through:

- In-house and external Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities
- Training aligned with the School Development Plan
- Access to award-bearing and non-award-bearing courses
- Opportunities to reflect on and develop pastoral skills
- Regular opportunities for professional dialogue and collaboration
- Wellbeing initiatives and support systems for staff
- Leadership development pathways, including pastoral leadership roles
- Access to external expertise and networks for pastoral care

Monitoring and Evaluation

We are committed to continually improving our pastoral care provision to ensure it meets the evolving needs of our children and families. Guided by our ethos of compassion, inclusion, and lifelong learning, we regularly reflect on our practices, listen to the voices of our community, and evaluate the impact of our support systems. This process helps us maintain a nurturing environment where every child feels safe, valued, and able to flourish.

Pastoral care is reviewed annually and monitored through:

- Feedback from pupils, staff, and parents
- Review of related policies (e.g. Child Protection, Positive Behaviour)
- Monitoring of pastoral programmes and interventions
- Staff training and development needs
- Evaluation of the impact on pupil wellbeing and learning
- Analysis of attendance, behaviour, and safeguarding data

- Regular pastoral team meetings and action planning
- Governor oversight and reporting on pastoral care outcomes

Related Policies

Pastoral care at St Patrick's Primary School is supported and strengthened by a range of related policies that reflect our commitment to safeguarding, inclusion, emotional wellbeing, and lifelong learning. These policies work together to create a safe, nurturing environment where every child is valued and supported in all aspects of their development.

This policy is supported by the following policies:

- Addressing Bullying Policy
- Code of Practice on Reporting Malpractice (Whistleblowing) Policy
- Complaints Procedure Policy
- Drugs Policy
- E-Safety and ICT Policy
- Homework Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy
- Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Policy
- Parental Code of Conduct Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Pupil Attendance Policy
- Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Policy
- Safe Handling and the Use of Reasonable Force Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Policy
- Smoke Free Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct Policy
- Transition Policy

Responsibility for Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a shared responsibility rooted in our ethos of faith, compassion, and community. Every member of staff plays a vital role in creating a safe, nurturing environment where children feel valued, supported, and able to thrive. This collective commitment is strengthened through close partnerships with parents, parish clergy, external agencies, and the wider community.

Review

This Pastoral Care Policy will be formally reviewed in **December 2029** to ensure it continues to reflect the ethos, needs, and priorities of St Patrick's Primary School. The review will involve consultation with staff, pupils, parents, and governors, and will consider feedback, current best practice, and any changes in legislation or guidance.

The policy may also be reviewed earlier if required, in response to significant developments, emerging needs, or changes in statutory guidance.