

**PASTORAL CARE POLICY
FOR**

**ST. MALACHY'S P.S.
AND NURSERY UNIT**

CAMLOUGH

The pastoral dimension of St.Malachy's concerns all pupils and adults involved with the life of the school. This includes visitors, cleaners, supervisory assistants etc. In our school we hope that each person will have a sense of belonging and that both child and adult will feel safe and secure in a warm and caring environment.

For pupils this means encouraging them to

- set and achieve personal, social and academic goals through a planned and developmental programme
- extend and enhance good experiences at home
- develop habits of self-discipline, concern for others and a sense of responsibility
- recognise their own strengths and limitations and be aware of their own personal qualities
- foster good relationships.

For teachers this means

- establishing a clear vision of the school with its pupils, its parents and its plan of development
- developing whole school policies which establish principles for action throughout the school
- acquiring a detailed knowledge of the needs, aspirations, interests and academic progress of each pupil in the class
- providing them with opportunities for their own professional development
- establishing support for those in need
- creating an atmosphere where the children feel secure and can come to the class teacher for any reason.

For other adults such as caretakers, cleaners, classroom assistants, supervisory assistants, clerical assistants, it is very important that they know about the positive attitude to discipline.

They should have an understanding of and an empathy with the general ethos of the school. They should see themselves as part of the whole school community where each member has a particular role to play.

In St.Malachy's we see our school as part of an extended family where everyone works for the common good. We also see our school as part of a much wider community.

ATTITUDES TO LEARNING

The pastoral dimension greatly influences attitudes to learning and so

- teachers will provide a range of learning styles
- in every classroom each child will be treated as an individual
- the less able child will be given the opportunity to 'shine'
- all children will be stretched to achieve maximum potential.

CARING ATTITUDE

Pupils

We would encourage parents to support the school in our common aim - the whole development of the child. Teachers will adapt appropriate measures in particular to pupils' home circumstances and always display a fair and positive attitude to discipline. The school will encourage positive attitudes and develop in its pupils a wide range of personal interests and extra curricular activities.

Implicit in the pastoral dimension is a programme throughout the school for Health Education. There is a designated teacher for Child Protection but due to the nature of primary education it will be the responsibility of each class teacher to look after the pastoral needs of the children in his/her class. A female teacher will be responsible for any problems of senior girls. Class teachers will attempt to resolve the worries of new pupils and to relieve their anxieties. The class teacher should be informed about any difficult home circumstances that may be causing distress or anxiety.

When a child is sick or injured and requires urgent medical attention the school will, in the first case, attempt to contact the parent or nominated contacts. If this is not possible the child will be brought to hospital. In all cases it would be appreciated if parents would nominate an emergency contact.

It will always be the school's policy to act in the best interests of the child.

Staff

We all acknowledge and value the contribution each member of staff makes to the life and work of the school. We recognise also that a fit and healthy staff is important not only for the individuals themselves but also to help us realise our school vision and to provide good role models for our children.

To help ensure the health, safety and well-being of staff, the school will:

- (a) be designated a no-smoking zone
- (b) comply with all Health and Safety regulations
- (c) provide each member of staff with all relevant policies
- (d) promote a positive attitude to safety, fitness and health among staff
- (e) provide each member of staff with phone numbers of EA and CCMS Welfare Offices:

- EA Welfare Services Manager, Tel. No. 02837512575
(teaching and non teaching)
- CCMS – Inspire/Carecall Tel. No. 0808 800 0002 (teaching)

EVALUATION

The school will continually monitor and evaluate the pastoral dimension and seek ways of improving the quality of provision for both pupils and adults.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Pastoral Care Team in St Malachy's Primary school will update this policy and procedures in the light of any further guidance and legislation as necessary and review it triennially.

The Board of Governors will also monitor Health and Safety and the implementation of the policy on a regular basis through the provision of annual reports from the Health and Safety teacher.

On-going evaluation will ensure the effectiveness of the policy.

Date policy reviewed: 20/11/2017

Signed:

_____ (Principal)

_____ (Chair of Board of Governors)