



DROMORE NURSERY SCHOOL

PASTORAL CARE POLICY



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RATIONALE:

Pastoral Care in Dromore Nursery School is a priority. It is acknowledged as playing a crucial role in the development of the ethos of the school. The ethos is based on Non – Denominational Christian values with emphasis on the intellectual, moral, emotional and spiritual development of each pupil.

The Pastoral Care policy supports the school population in promoting a caring, supportive environment in which staff, parents and pupils can work in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

In Dromore Nursery School we recognise that central to the success of this is the involvement of parents and other outside agencies from our community. We strive to work in partnership with them to achieve our aims.

AIMS

- To ensure that each pupil feels valued, special and unique and a member of the Dromore Nursery School community.
- To develop a sense of personal worth and dignity through intellectual, moral and spiritual development.
- To empower pupils in building and maintaining good relationships with pupils, teachers and others.
- To offer guidance and facilitate the support that outside agencies can give.
- To assist individuals to develop their lifestyles.
- To encourage a sense of personal accountability for their own learning and actions.
- To use the Solihull Approach in a ‘whole family’ approach.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

To ensure a structured approach to the caring for all pupils we have developed the followed basic structure.

Classroom Assistants/Special Needs Assistants

Class Teacher

Principal (Head of Pastoral Care)

Board of Governors

The class teacher supported by the nursery assistants is identified as the key person who impacts on the care of the pupils in their class, it is important that the teacher works in co-operation with Principal and Board of Governors who will provide support and leadership in the pastoral domain.

In the event of additional input being required the Principal will also be available to support individual pupils or families.

SUPPORTING POLICIES

Whilst all policies and procedures within the school take cognisance of the pastoral care of pupils and staff some support it in specific areas.

These policies include:

- Health and Safety

- Risk Assessment
- Anti-Bullying
- Behaviour management
- Child Protection
- Use of Reasonable Force
- Special Educational Needs
- Parents Involvement
- Pupils with Medical Needs in School
- Settling-In Policy

INCLUSIVITY

Dromore Nursery School supports the fundamental principle that every pupil is entitled to be educated. Therefore, a pupils individual needs are identified and supported to ensure they continue to feel part of the school community.

LIASON WITH PARENTS

We see ourselves as partners with parents in the education of pupils. Mutual support and co-operation is an essential element in achieving our objectives. On-going activities to ensure communication and parental involvement include:

- Regular parent/teacher meetings
- Newsletter/parent letters
- Annual reports
- Fundraising activities
- Christmas Carol Service
- End of Year Celebration
- Information/Curriculum evenings
- Parent helpers with snack
- Parents helpers in the classroom
- Parents helpers on educational visits and Shared Education Projects

- Grandparents/male Role Modelling Week
- Art Exhibition etc

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Aspects of pastoral care remain a permanent feature of our own School Development Plan and subsequent staff development and training are considered essential to support this. Our on –going development programme helps teachers and support staff identify the attitudes, values, skills and knowledge which will enable them to carry out their pastoral roles.

On-going training in interpersonal skills, counselling skills and teaching methods which engage pupil through activities and impact their learning. Training programmes are organised through:

- On site course
- Joint staff training with Drumnacree Nursery School
- Principal sourced training
- Courses organised by the Education Authority
- Independent Advisors

All staff members have completed Solihull Training.

RESOURCING

To ensure the implementation of the policy the Principal will ensure that adequate resources and time will be made available to develop the programme throughout the school, in line with budget planning.

LIAISON WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES

We are committed to developing good working relationships with relevant support agencies to enhance, protect and support individual pupil's social and emotional welfare.

DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF PUPILS

Cognisance is taken of the needs of individual pupils as they develop and change during their time at school.

MONITORING

On-going monitoring is an integral part of our policy. Procedures are discussed at regular staff meetings to ensure that the policy is implanted as planned. Support is given to those staff who require assistance in carrying out any aspects of their pastoral care.

SELF- EVALUATION

Self - evaluation procedures are in place to discover ways of improving the quality of provision in the school for the benefit of all pupils and staff members. We value parental opinions and input therefore; regular questionnaires and information sessions are held to provide opportunities for engagement. Parents are also invited to make regular comment via the planning sheets posted on the parent board, which include a parent's comments panel.

