



Pastoral Care Policy

Approved 19th November 2015

Review date: June 2017

Lead: C Maguire

INTRODUCTION

***“Inspired by St. John the Baptist, we
Work together in Love
Play together in Harmony
Pray Together in Faith
Aspiring to Happiness and Achievement for all”***

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.

Our Aims, Vision and Values

It is a primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels valued and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community. We take our lead and inspiration from Christ and the Gospel values: the belief that all human beings are uniquely created and loved by God and worthy of respect. This challenge shows itself in the way we value:

- Our school environment
- Our relationships with each other and the wider community
- Discipline inspired by forgiveness, healing and reconciliation
- Our respect for one another

Our school subscribes to the view that every pupil has a 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

- creating an explicit Pastoral Care programme which allows for a fair and equitable exchange of views/ideas/attitudes, etc. in an atmosphere of trust
- implementation of a Behaviour Management 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.

Relationships

Excellent relationships foster and develop in an atmosphere of **Respect**.

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.

Professional Counselling

The value of professional counselling should never be underestimated. A counsellor can offer immense support to a young person who needs help and guidance. Our school will endeavor to enlist the support of Professional Counsellors to assist our young people to develop towards a more concise and definitive awareness of self.

All counsellors who assist in this extremely important area will be familiar with BAC or equivalent guidelines.

Counselling/Relationships

Teachers will endeavor 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.

Managing External Agencies (Ref Appendix A and B)

We acknowledge the importance of ensuring that any external agencies used to support our work with young people must adhere to the values and ethos particular to our school. Schools need to be aware of the importance of a contract being agreed upon by all contributory parties.

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.

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:

- Pastoral Care Policy
- Personal Development Curriculum Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Misuse of Drugs/Substances Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Storage and Administration of Medication policy

Evaluation and Monitoring

This school recognizes and accepts the importance of monitoring and evaluating all aspects of Pastoral Care at every level. To this end we follow the procedures for self evaluation as outlined in the DE document 'Together Towards improvement'