

ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL LOUGHGUILLE



PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Designated Teacher: Mrs M McErlean

Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs M Hanna

Deputy Designated Teacher (temporary) Miss Orla O Hara

(Reviewed and updated September 2022)

Rationale

In St Patrick's our Pastoral Care policy, practice and procedures are designed to meet the ever-changing and complex needs of our pupils. This is intended to help our children acquire the skills necessary to cope with a rapidly changing society and the pressures of media, family, friends and education that they have to deal with in everyday life.

Our school motto "Play, learn and grow together" inculcates the caring attitude and security that we endeavour to provide. We place great emphasis on meeting the totality of needs of our pupils - social, spiritual, mental, emotional, physical as well as educational needs. We desire that every pupil reaches his/her full potential in every area of his/her life and that they mature into contented, fulfilled individuals.

We promote positive attitudes, a healthy lifestyle and develop strategies to help our pupils apply real life skills and make rational decisions.

We also provide an environment where children feel safe, secure and valued and where their concerns are listened to and acted upon when necessary.

Pastoral care is most effective when it is based on this consistent approach and where responsibility is shared by all staff, pupils, parents, health professionals, relevant outside agencies and the local and wider communities.

Aims

In our school Pastoral Care seeks to support the learning and overall development of all our pupils in all aspects of school life. In doing so we

- Create a caring and secure environment where all our pupils are helped to develop to their full potential and to develop as a person as well as a learner
- Develop a happy and caring learning environment which promotes respect, cooperation and a sense of belonging
- Provide opportunities to develop self-discipline and an acceptance of personal responsibility for own actions
- Develop and embed life skills necessary for taking a place in society e.g., critical thinking, decision making, problem solving, effective communication to name a few
- Create an ethos of fairness, justice and equality which helps children develop their self-esteem and confidence
- Develop and maintain healthy, respectful relationships within school where everyone feels valued regardless of academic or social background
- Recognise and learn how to address unwelcome behaviour in others and develop the skills and confidence in dealing with these in order to keep themselves safe

Ethos

In St Patrick's all our work is based around providing a safe, caring and inclusive environment for all in our school. We promote good relationships at all levels and this is achieved by

- Providing a strong caring ethos
- Promoting self-esteem and confidence
- Utilising a positive approach in the promotion and maintaining of good behaviour
- Keeping parents informed and involved in our pastoral care arrangements
- Involving external agencies and the local and wider communities where appropriate
- Promoting and facilitating an atmosphere of care and respect within all areas of school life

Relationships

We also recognise the value and importance of establishing a network of supporting relationships for everyone in our school community. As a staff we work in a climate of mutual respect which, in turn, transfers to our contact with pupils, parents and visitors to our school. We recognise the vital importance of establishing secure, positive relationships between pupils, pupils and staff, staff and parents and all other stakeholders within the school setting. Parents are invaluable to the success of our school and we seek to involve them in the life of the school at every opportunity e.g., information evenings, open days, interviews and school events.

Staff Welfare

The Principal and Governors realise that an appropriate life/work balance is essential for the health and wellbeing of all staff, and indeed for teachers to perform to the best of their ability. We realise that there may be personal or professional needs and that teachers may require additional levels of support and understanding. Staff should feel that they are able to discuss these with either the Principal or Vice Principal and that any issues will be treated in a confidential and compassionate way.

Values

Our values are evident in our child centred approach to school life. As a school we encourage children to think positively about themselves and to recognise and accept their own individuality. We ensure that our pupils feel valued and respected. We believe that the promotion of positive self-esteem and confidence will also enhance the learning experience.

We seek to provide a holistic education so that the pupils' lives are enriched by the experience. We place emphasis on core Christian values like respect, honesty, tolerance, cooperation, reconciliation and an awareness for the needs of others.

Personal Safety

While ensuring the safe supervision of all pupils, we also encourage children to be responsible for their own personal safety. We equip them with the skills necessary to make the right decisions and to know where to get help if confronted with danger. We place emphasis on the preventative curriculum as well as ensuring that all our pupils are aware of Child Protection procedures.

All visitors to the school, including parents, must report to the secretary's office and no child is allowed to leave school premises without written permission from a responsible adult.

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

The BoG, Principal and SMT work together to ensure that there is effective pastoral care provision in St Patrick's. The BoG have overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy while the SMT ensure that Pastoral Care is highly regarded within the school and given a high profile in the School Development Plan. The Safe Guarding team will monitor and evaluate the impact of policy, practice and procedures - the impact on the quality of provision within and beyond the classroom, the effectiveness of support arrangements for individuals - and will work with all staff to provide training and resources as required.

Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged and helped to take an active role in their children's education. We provide planned and spontaneous feedback to parents and are pro-active in contacting parents as soon as the need arises. We have information evenings, open days, assemblies, masses, concerts, parent meetings and staff are available at other times on request. Questionnaires are circulated to parents in order to obtain their views on relevant issues.

Links to other Policies

- Child Protection
- Anti-Bullying
- Positive behaviour
- Special Needs
- Intimate Care
- Code of Conduct
- PDMU

(Reviewed and updated September 2022)