



St. Malachy's Primary School.

A Policy for Pastoral Care

An effective Pastoral Care system is required as a result of the rapid changes taking place within society. Our children require all the skills necessary to deal with the rising pressures of media, family, education and peer pressures that they encountered in their daily lives.

Pastoral Care is composed of different policies, programmes and procedures which encourages each individual child to develop to their full potential by catering for their spiritual, moral, emotional, intellectual, physical and social needs in a safe and secure environment.

Aims

- A well educated child, interested in learning and with a keen sense of personal worth.
- A child who is confident in relationships with peers, parents, teachers and other adults.
- A child who is able to cope with success and failure; joy and sorrow; the ups and downs of everyday life.
- A child with a responsible attitude towards self and others.
- A child with a fundamental understanding of social skills necessary for adult life.

Specific Issues

To implement our Pastoral Care Policy, four specific issues have been addressed;

- a) Ethos
- b) Relationships
- c) Values
- d) Self-esteem

Ethos

Our school's ethos contributes effectively to pastoral care by:

- developing good sustaining relationships among Principal, Board of Governors, staff, teaching and non-teaching, pupils, parents and the wider community (facilitating an atmosphere of care and respect within the formal and informal life of the school community, DENI Circular 1999/10).
- parents being aware of and having confidence in the pastoral care arrangements.
- using positive approaches to promote and maintain good standards of discipline.

Relationships

Through our positive relationships in school with parents and the wider community, we aim to foster self respect, self discipline, tolerance, equality and fairness to ensure that each individual feels valued and cared for at all times.

Values

Through the daily experiences, in addition to curriculum activities, all staff aim to communicate positive values and beliefs. These values include for example, sharing, taking your turn, listening, being grateful, good manners, honesty, forgiveness, reconciliation and healing.

Self Esteem

To promote our children's positive self-esteem we will encourage our children to think positively about themselves and to accept their own uniqueness. Our school will provide opportunities for the children to feel valued and important by creating an awareness of the positive contribution they can make towards school and the community.

Personal Safety

Through our pastoral care policy we aim to develop our children's responsibility for his/her safety in a variety of situations within and outside the school environment. We will develop this through the curriculum and highlight in appropriate policies, i.e. Child Protection, Discipline, Anti-Bullying, Drugs, Health Education, First Aid, Road Safety.

Implementation of Pastoral Care Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Governors hold overall responsibility for the development and implementation of the Pastoral Care Policy. The Senior Management Team are responsible for ensuring that Pastoral Care is forefront in Development Plan agenda and will monitor and evaluate its effectiveness. The Personal Development Co-ordinator, Mrs Rooney, is responsible for informing and liaising with other relevant policy co-ordinators, outside agencies, providing resources and being available to the inspectorate. In addition the Personal Development Co-ordinator will have the responsibility of initiating appropriate staff training.

How each teacher can contribute to pastoral care.

All staff will contribute by helping children to make informed decisions, about issues in terms of 'right' and 'wrong' remaining sensitive to the beliefs of others. They will build up pupils' self-esteem, encourage them to be assertive to resist peer pressure. Teachers must avoid sarcasm, belittling, humiliation etc and help pupils to alleviate success.

Monitoring and Evaluating

To ensure the Pastoral Care is working effectively in our school we intend to continually monitor and evaluate and review the procedures and practice. We value the contribution that can be made by our teachers, parents and pupils to affect appropriate change when necessary. This will be achieved through:

- teacher / parent interviews
- SEN reviews
- open nights / curriculum evenings
- staff meetings, Board of Governors
- periodical questionnaires / audits/correspondence with parents

Staff Training

Inset training will be given to teaching and support staff when required. Board of Governors and all staff will be encouraged to attend appropriate external courses and in-service training days. Through the Personal Development Co-ordinator, all staff will be informed of all DE recommended changes.

Resources

The Principal has overall responsibility for maintaining and acquiring resources to deliver the policies effectively.

The maintenance of the school environment and the provision of a safe accommodation will ultimately be with the Board of Governors and the Principal.

Range of Pastoral Activities

We encourage extra curricular and after school activities. The primary aim of supervision is to ensure safety at all times for all of the children between 8.45 am and 2.45 pm each day and during extra curricular activities. New pupils to our school are welcomed by the Principal and all the staff during events occurring at the time they arrive.

Reviewed March '13

Next Review March '15