



PASTORAL CARE POLICY

The School pastoral plan is an integral part of the School's overall development plan. It comprises a cross-curricular approach to delivery, encouraging inclusivity in accordance with the School Ethos.

"We stress the fostering of attitudes which will result in the development of mature, integrated and creative individuals".

In St. Paul's, our pastoral plan involves both students and teachers working together in fostering the environment that is inclusive and respectful of individual dignity and uniqueness.

To whom does the plan apply?

Pastoral care in our School refers to a range of learning experiences incorporating the spiritual and social, educational and emotional development of each child according to his/her different capabilities, as stated in our School Ethos:

"Our school recognises that each pupil that enrolls is unique and has different gifts as well as different needs. We advocate special concern for those who are emotionally, materially or intellectually disadvantaged".

The pastoral plan addresses the needs of all students at all levels within the School, as pastoral care is a 'whole school' concern. The plan applies to School Management and staff generally, creating an atmosphere in which all members of the School feel valued, cared for and respected.

Aims:

To help all students in the School to:-

- **develop an awareness and acceptance of their emotional and spiritual needs.**
- **facilitate their development into contented balanced and happy young adults**
- **grow in independence and take responsibility for themselves.**

Pastors Care Approach:

The School's Pastoral Care Programmes involves the Principal, Deputy Principal, Year Heads, Student Council, Guidance Counsellor, Religion and S.P.H.E. teachers. In 2011 we introduced tutors for First Year students.

Students:

- **Staff meet on a regular basis both formally and informally to identify and discuss students who need appropriate care and attention.**
- **Particular attention and care is provided for First Years, students who enrol during the course of an academic year and non-national.**
- **Special Needs provisions are available to students who require them, subject to resource allocations from DES. Timetables are specifically designed for the individual needs of these students.**
- **Students can avail of a confidential counselling service provided by the Guidance Counsellor.**
- **A formal referral system is in place for students who are deemed at risk. The School works in partnership with the HSE in relation to students/families at risk.**

Staff:

- **Appropriate support and induction is provided for new staff members.**
- **Teachers are encouraged and supported in pursuing programmes of further study that will benefit and enrich the School environment.**
- **Staff meetings and policy development meetings are held on a regular basis, providing a forum for teachers to exchange information, provide advice and support to colleagues and reach general consensus on formalising pastoral care action plans and policies.**

Home-School Links:

- **The School liaises with parents on a regular basis to ensure that student pastoral care is supported, not only within the School, but in the home also.**

- **The School's pastoral care approach encourages the development of strong links with parents/guardians.**
- **Families in need receive care and guidance and appropriate referral and support.**

Success Criteria:

Continued review of Pastoral Care Policy employing the action research model ensures the delivery of a quality service. Success criteria are informed by views expressed by students, teachers and parents. Parent-teacher meetings, staff meetings and staff-student meetings provide appropriate forums for the articulation and subsequent discussion of views.

The delivery of pastoral care is deemed a success:-

- **All relevant parties possess a high level of awareness of the Pastoral Care Programme.**
- **All parties feel supported and cared for.**
- **Students and staff work and live in an atmosphere that is conducive to personal and educational development.**

Renewed on:- _____

Signed:- _____

Chairperson