St. Paul's Secondary School

OUGHTERARD, CO. GALWAY H91 PT86

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Pastoral Care Policy

As a school in the Catholic tradition, Saint Paul's has long recognised the value and importance of pastoral care for all students and staff. In our school community we foster relationships which are based on respect and Gospel values. We engender a sense of belonging to our school community where each individual is valued for their uniqueness. In doing so we promote a school community that is both caring and positive, in an environment where each person can feel safe and secure. The purpose of this policy is to strive to enact our school mission, vision and ethos at Saint Paul's.

Our pastoral plan involves both students and staff, who work together in fostering an environment that is inclusive and respectful of individual dignity and uniqueness. In so doing, the policy aims to help students in the school to:

- Develop an awareness and acceptance of their emotional and spiritual needs
- facilitates their development into content happy and balanced young adults
- grow in independence and take responsibility for themselves

Pastoral Care Approach

The pastoral care program in Saint Paul's, involves the Principal, Deputy Principal, Year Heads, Student Council, Guidance Counsellor, Religion and SPHE teachers.

Students:

- Staff meet on a regular basis both formally and informally to identify and discuss the needs of students who may require additional care and

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attention. These care teams include Senior Management, the relevant Year Head, and any other staff member deemed appropriate.

- Particular attention and care is provided for first year students, those who enrol during the course of an academic year and also our international students.
- Special needs provisions are available to students who require them subject to resource allocations from the DES.
- Students can avail of a counselling service which is provided by the school guidance counsellor.
- A formal referral system to external agencies is in place for students who are deemed at risk, this is in line with statutory obligations and best practice in the area of child protection. The school works in partnership with the Health Service Executive in relation to students and families who are at risk.
- In the event of a critical incident occurring, the Senior Management will implement the school's Critical Incident Policy.

Staff:

- An APII Post Holder is appointed to support new staff members.
- Teachers are encouraged and supported in their pursuit of programs of study, that will benefit and enrich the school environment.
- Staff meetings are held on a regular basis, providing a forum for teachers to exchange information, provide advice and support to colleagues and to raise any issues of concern.

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 also at home.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Reviewed on Date: 30.05.2023