



Pastoral Care Policy

Pastoral care is available to all pupils so as to support each child to reach their full potential in a safe, friendly and pleasant setting where respect, fairness and integrity are central to all aspects of school life.

The Board of Management, School Management, the Guidance Team, the Learning Support Team, the Pastoral Care Team and teachers play a central role in this policy, as it includes all aspects of the school. Great emphasis is placed on the pastoral care, and the personal, social and intellectual development of the pupils of our school.

We understand that the pupils are in our care during a sensitive period in their lives as they grow physically and develop their sense of identity. Pupils need support and understanding during this stage of their lives, and pastoral care is the foundation to the support system we have in place for our pupils.

Pastoral care is the care of the relationships between all parties in the school. We put policies and structures in place and make resources available to support each pupil as they mature.

The following are the formal structures in place in the school;

Class Tutor:

Each class has a Class Tutor. The Class Tutor meets with its class at morning assembly. Every effort is also made to ensure that the Class Tutor teaches the group, to give the teacher a better chance of getting to know its class, and to foster a good relationship with them, and to recognise any problems that may occur.

The Class Tutor monitors attendance and progress of the pupils, and contacts parents/guardians where necessary. The Class Tutor communicates regularly with School Management to discuss any issues that pupils present with.

If a pupil has a problem, they can discuss this with their Class Tutor, and the Class Tutor will inform the School Management / the School Guidance team, as necessary. The Class Tutor also encourages pupils to become involved in extra-curricular activities.

The Guidance Team

A member of the Guidance team meets each First-Year class at the start of the year to explain that counselling and guidance is available from the school.

A member of the Guidance team also meets with meets senior cycle students once a week to discuss career choices. They also meet with First- and Fourth-Year pupils to discuss Option Subjects.

Pupils are welcome to meet with the Guidance team at other times should they need guidance or counselling.

The Guidance team is in regular contact with teachers, school management and learning support teachers to share information, as far as appropriate, regarding issues pupils are presenting with.

The Guidance team is in regular contact with the Wellbeing team to ensure that the Wellbeing programme meets the needs of the pupils.

School Management:

The Principal and Deputy Principal make a conscious effort to get to know each pupil so as pupils feel comfortable when discussing issues with them. School management ensures that the structures and resources are in place for the successful implementation of this policy.

School Management make contact with parents and/or external agencies when necessary. They meet weekly with Class Tutors, the Guidance team, and the Learning Support Team to share and discuss any issues with pupils. School management support the Pastoral Care team in their work with pupils. Information is shared at staff meetings as appropriate. They encourage pupils to get involved in extra-curricular activities.

School Staff:

We ensure that all staff are aware of the aims of this policy and how to put the policy into action. All teachers try to create a positive learning environment where the holistic development of each pupil is to the forefront.

Wellbeing Teachers:

The Wellbeing teachers try to ensure that the specification is age appropriate and caters for the needs of the pupils.

The Wellbeing teachers are in regular contact with the Class Tutor and School Management regarding topics and themes that need to be discussed.

Learning Support Team:

The Learning Support team support those in need of extra help with their learning. They devise Individual Learning Plans for these pupils as per the Draft Special Education Needs Policy.

Board of Management:

The Board ensure that the Pastoral Care Policy is functioning fully through dialogue with School Management and Teacher Nominees on the Board.

The Board ensures that the school is meeting the needs of its pupils as far as resources allow.

Student's Council:

The Student's Council gives the students a voice in the school, and it gives them the opportunity to discuss issues relevant to themselves. The Council is an excellent method of communication between pupils and management. The Council provides pupils with the opportunity to develop and to learn new communication skills through their participation in the Council. The Student's Council organise events such as Anti-Bullying Week, which benefits the whole student body.

The House System:

The school operates a House system whereby each pupil is associated with a House/Team. Points are awarded to the student, and in turn, the house, for effort with Irish, Homework, Punctuality and Extra-Curricular Activities. Students from each year group are in every house. It provides the students with an opportunity to get to know pupils from other year groups. The house with the most points at the end of the year are awarded the House of the Year Cup.

Parents:

We believe it is important that parents are aware of the Pastoral Care Policy and the structures in place in the school. We ask parents to support the school by sharing any information regarding the welfare of their child with the school.

The Board of Management adopted this policy on May 14th, 2019. It will be reviewed annually, or as necessary.

