



Pastoral Care Policy

Signed

Chair of Board of Governors Monsignor Peter O'Reilly

Principal Mr Brian Treacy

PASTORAL CARE

Rationale

It is important to all of us in Holy Trinity Primary School that each person is happy, secure, respected and has a positive attitude to learning. Therefore, we desire to integrate the academic, social and religious dimension of the school's energy so that an atmosphere of care and respect prevails within the positive learning environment in this Catholic school. We hope to create an atmosphere in our school where God's Love is experienced by all members of the school community.

In each of the school policies we have implied or underpinned this commitment. However, we feel that the pastoral dimension is particularly relevant to the following areas of school life and that the policies and procedures should carry this commitment.

Religious Education, Discipline, Anti-Bullying, Health and Safety, Child Protection, Drugs Education, Staff Welfare / Development, Special Needs, Sex Education.

In Holy Trinity and Nursery School the pastoral care structures are based on a shared understanding of what it means to be a Catholic School. This shared understanding appreciates that:

- Each person is unique and worthy of respect.
- Pastoral care is for the entire school community and not just for those experiencing difficulties.
- Each member of the school community has responsibility for the caring life of the school.
- Pastoral care permeates the life of the school and is not imposed but is a loving response to discerned needs.
- It avails of the support and expertise provided by statutory and voluntary bodies in the wider community.
- Appropriate resources and training will be provided to ensure the effective implementation of the programme.

AIMS

Pastoral Care aims to:

1. Create an environment of a caring Christian community inspired by the values of Jesus so that each child and member of staff feels valued.
2. Ensure the welfare and safety of all.
3. Ensure concern for the development of the whole person.
4. Develop within each child the skills necessary to promote self-discipline, self-esteem, self-confidence, independence and social awareness.
5. Promote positive attitudes to learning.
6. Encourage enjoyment and fulfilment in learning experiences.
7. Encourage self-respect and respect for others
8. Develop a sense of responsibility and a sense of honesty and fair play.
9. Encourage respect for property.
10. Develop a positive partnership with parents and local community to facilitate the child's holistic development.

Principles

We recognise that Pastoral Care involves pupils, parents, staff and local community and requires a caring commitment by all.

The Pastoral dimension in our school is to be seen in all areas of our teaching. It is to be seen in the way we communicate with the children and also in how we communicate with each other. We aim to foster and promote pupils' confidence, self esteem and motivation by praising and rewarding success and giving attention to their emotional, social and physical well-being.

The Pastoral dimension should also be most visible in our ethos, the curriculum, home - school links and the discipline policy.

The Pastoral dimension is also to be seen in the extra-curricular activities of our school:

Swimming, Football, Gaelic and Soccer, Art/Craft, Choir, Drama/Musicals,
Spanish, Jujitsu, Cycling Proficiency,

Skills To Be Developed

1. Good communication at all levels
2. Creativity of staff and pupils
3. Confidence and self-esteem and self-reliance
4. Team work among pupils and pupils and staff.

Many of these skills we hope will be acquired through the curriculum and in particular developed further through work in a variety of other areas. Eg.

PDMU/PATHS, School Assemblies, Local Feis, Cycling Proficiency, Drugs Education,
Healthy Breaks/healthy lunch boxes, Anti Bullying Week Activities,
Pupil of the Week/lunchtime rewards, Proud Cloud, Pupil of the Day, Internet Safety Week
and Compliments board

Everyday Experiences

Our Pastoral Care Policy translates into the everyday experiences of each person in the classroom and in the school at all times. The school management team, teachers, supervisory assistants and classroom assistants must be ever vigilant to ensure that an atmosphere of trust and harmony prevails. They must try as far as is possible to anticipate likely areas of difficulty and to take steps to ensure the safety and well being of each person.

Parent Liaison

In Holy Trinity, liaison with parents is seen to be crucial in ensuring that the children are feeling happy, safe and in the best position to develop to the best of their ability.

1. Parents should be aware that they are welcome at any time to arrange a meeting for a suitable pre-arranged time to discuss the needs of their own child/children.

2. Parents should be consulted and asked to give feedback on our Pastoral Care Systems.
3. Parents should get information leaflets on Pastoral Care, Child Protection, Positive Behaviour, Anti Bullying and E-Safety from the school.
4. Parent-teacher meetings will be arranged annually (Nov).
5. Meetings for Holy Communion and Confirmation to be arranged by chaplain.
6. Meetings for Education for Love/Love for Life arranged for P7 children.
7. Monthly Newsletter sent home.
8. Homework diaries for two way communication.

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors of Holy Trinity sees its role in respect to Pastoral care as follows:

- To ensure it is effectively meeting its statutory obligations.
- To ensure that the safety and well-being of pupils and staff in Holy Trinity are safeguarded and promoted.
- To ensure that roles, responsibilities, procedures and practices of the school are clear to all and are implemented systematically and consistently.
- To ensure through effective monitoring and evaluation that further development and training issues are addressed.

Liaison with External Agencies.

In Holy Trinity, we are committed to working with external agencies to help promote the safety, well-being and care of all.

Such groups include, WELB Services, Child and Adolescent Teams, Extern, EWO, Social Services, School Nurse, PSNI and CCMS, Action for Children, the Fermanagh Hub, Women's Aid, School Counselling, Solas

Monitoring and evaluation

On-going monitoring is an integral part of our policy. The SMT will have overall responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of the pastoral care policy. Support will be given to those teachers who require assistance in carrying out any aspect of the pastoral role.

In Holy Trinity we believe that our Pastoral Care Programme will only be effective if we have it regularly evaluated by the whole school community - pupils, staff (including ancillary and auxiliary), parents and governors. All aspects of the policy will be evaluated on an ongoing basis through staff feedback, questionnaires, informal interviews and parents meetings. While the SMT has overall responsibility for evaluation, self-evaluation is a feature of every teacher's role. This forms the basis of our Staff Development Programme.