

**St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh**

---



# Pastoral Care Policy

**2021-2022**

## **RATIONALE**

Society today presents children with many challenges, socially, emotionally, physically, academically and morally, they encounter many difficulties. Peer pressure, child abuse, low self esteem and media influences have become more prevalent. Pastoral care in St. Mary's Primary School is a priority. It is acknowledged as playing a crucial role in the development of the ethos in the school. This ethos is based on Catholic Christian values with emphasis on the intellectual, moral, emotional and spiritual development of each pupil.

## **AIMS**

It will be our aim in St. Mary's Cabragh to ensure that the children:-

- Develop a sense of worth, uniqueness and self-esteem.
- Develop an understanding of themselves as individuals, recognising their strengths and areas for improvement, their personal qualities, their attitudes and values.
- Develop good communication skills.
- Achieve to the best of their ability.
- Feel safe within the school environment.
- Understand and practice acceptable behaviour.

Provision will be made throughout the school, to enhance the progressive development needs of pupils. Teachers will be aware that all children are different and their needs differ.

## **TEACHERS will need:-**

- To have a clear vision of the school, what it means for them, for the children and for the community.
- To promote a caring environment where pupils learning is related to the child's individual needs and ability.
- To continuously develop their professionalism.
- To be aware of the background of the children.
- To build up relationships where children can feel happy and content and be able to approach the teacher if necessary.
- To realise that not all children come from happy, caring homes.

## **OTHER ADULTS in the school**

(The secretary, caretaker, bus drivers, classroom assistant & cooks etc.)

- Need to understand the ethos of the school and be in agreement with it.
- Work with the teachers to promote a caring attitude.
- Treat children with respect and generally treat them as they themselves would like to be treated.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES & ROLE IN OUR PASTORAL CARE SYSTEM**

Mrs Louise Quinn (Principal)

Miss Lauren Cush - Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mrs Donna Quinn - Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

## **ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF STAFF**

Responsibilities will include:-

- General Discipline
- Planning and Teaching Personal Development & Mutual Understanding
- Liaising with colleagues, parents and external agencies.
- Monitoring & recording academic and social performance of pupils.
- Knowing all pupils' aspirations, goals and personal targets.
- Counselling individual pupils and groups.
- Preparing and compiling progress reports.
- Advising on curricular issues.

A range of Pastoral Care activities will be catered for in our school.

The Pastoral dimension of our school is something which should be clearly evident in every aspect of school life, whether it be in the classrooms, on the corridors, in the playground or even discipline procedures. It is important that we should treat others as we would like to be treated.

The school is a community, an extension of family where everyone is working not only for themselves but for each other. Parents are always welcome and their views are always respected and it is important we let out parents know that we welcome them. While there are times set aside each year for planned visits, parents will be constantly reminded that they are welcome to visit (or telephone if it is more convenient). Parents too must be made aware of the position of the teacher. School life is very much a partnership. There must be a strong bond between teacher, pupil and parent.

The school is also part of the wider community and from time to time we will be depending on the community to assist us. Visits from the doctor, the nurse, the psychologist, the fireman or safety advisers will be part of the school life. Good relations will be built up with neighbouring schools and links will be made with health and welfare agencies.

It is hoped to encourage older children to help and care for younger children in the school and encourages the children to be helpful, co-operative and sympathetic to the needs of others. The school will be kept clean and tidy and the children will be encouraged to do their best to help.

Classrooms should be neat, clean and colourful and have children's work displayed. At all times every effort will be made to be fair in our approach to discipline and be ready to reward when appropriate.

## **CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES**

1. Children should be listened to and taken seriously.
2. In any incident the child's welfare is paramount. This overrides all other considerations.
3. A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families. Where there is a conflict the child's interests must come first.

With this in mind we have appointed Miss Lauren Cush as Designated teacher. In her absence, her role will be undertaken by Mrs Donna Quinn (Deputy Designated Teacher) and Mrs Louise Quinn (School Principal)

Their duties shall include:

- 1) Keeping up to date with all relevant legislation.
- 2) Keeping teachers and ancillary staff informed as to their responsibilities.
- 3) Keeping a record of any concerns notified to them by any members of staff (teaching or non-teaching), outside agencies or others.
- 4) Keeping the governors informed.
- 5) Reporting any suspected abuse to the relevant authorities.
- 6) Supporting the child and the class teacher.

Abuse may take a number of forms including:- neglect, physical injury, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and exploitation. (See Child Protection Policy).

### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

Pastoral Care remains a permanent feature of our School Development Plan and subsequently staff development and training are considered essentials to support this. Our on-going staff development programme helps teachers identify attitudes, values, skills and knowledge which will enable them to carry out their pastoral roles.

Training programmes are organised through:

- On site courses.
- Designated teacher training delivered by EA.
- Staff training delivered by the Designated Teacher or other qualified staff.

### **SUPPORTING POLICIES**

Whilst all policies and procedures within the school take cognisance of Pastoral Care of pupils and staff, some specifically support it in very specific areas.

Cross referencing the following policies is essential in delivering the pastoral care policy.

- Child Protection
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Anti- Bullying
- Acceptable use of the Internet

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

On-going monitoring is an integral part of our policy. Checklists are drawn up and procedures are discussed at regular staff meetings to ensure that the policy is implemented as planned.

The school will carry out evaluations of the pastoral dimensions to determine ways of improving the quality of provision for the benefit of all pupils and teachers.