

"To be the best we can be every day, in every way!"

St. Patrick's Primary School

Pastoral Care Policy

Our Mission Statement

**"Inspired by our faith in Christ,
St. Patrick's Catholic P.S. will provide:-
A happy, secure and caring learning environment
Which promotes all to be the best they can be,
Full of optimism, ambition and with a love of learning.
Working in partnership with our community,
We will ensure St. Patrick's P.S. makes a difference."**

INTRODUCTION TO SCHOOL

St Patrick's P.S. is a co-educational school with 185 pupils aged 4 – 11 enrolled for September 2018.

It is situated in a beautiful rural location in Clonoe close to Coalisland.

We as a staff believe that pastoral care is concerned with promoting pupils' personal and social development and fostering positive attitudes. These aims are achieved by the quality of teaching and learning and the nature of relationships between pupils and teachers and others.

We feel that it is important that the Principal and staff foster an ethos and set of expectations which promote good relationships and learning. Teachers should feel that they receive support and recognition from colleagues, management and parents. There should be harmonious relations between pupils and teachers where they treat one another with respect and courtesy.

Teachers are encouraged to employ and monitor positive teaching techniques and promote classroom strategies where pupils' learning is developed according to their individual needs. Classrooms should be seen as a stimulating working environment and classroom learning seen

as satisfying and productive. Pupils should enjoy school and see it as a safe and satisfying place. School should provide an ordered environment in which pupils feel able to work without interruption or intimidation. Parents should feel that they are being kept informed and up to date about their children.

CARE VALUES

CHILDREN

We support the principle that every child has the right to feel safe, happy and free from harm in school and we value the contribution every child can make to school life. Central to the creation of this environment is a commitment to the Catholic ethos and the recognition of the worth and value of each child and a cultivation of self respect so that the child may accept his/her appropriate responsibilities and show respect for others.

Children have the right to develop to their full potential within the limits of the school's resources and their achievements should be recognised. This is done through our weekly assemblies and Star Pupil Awards and our classroom reward schemes, golden time House System from P4 – P7.

We believe that every child should learn to respect their school, their peers and teachers, visitors to the school as well as respecting the school property and environment. They should be helped to recognise the responsibility they have to contribute to the development of this ethos.

STAFF

As a staff we are committed to working for the good of the school. Our staff bring a range of experiences and abilities to the school and each member's contribution is valued and appreciated.

All members of staff are treated with courtesy, fairness and respect and their opinions listened to and valued. Every staff member is entitled to support in their work, particularly in situations of difficulty or crisis and are entitled to a clear definition of his/her role and responsibilities within the school. We strive to ensure that teachers are supported in that they feel valued, and recognition is given that they are doing a worthwhile job in order to promote and maintain good staff morale.

PARENTS

Parents are vital partners in providing the best possible education for their children and are the first educators of our pupils. Whilst parents have an important contribution to make to our school practice, the professional judgement of teachers should always be respected, and parents are asked to support the work of the school by promoting and reinforcing its values at home.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors has a responsibility to establish a clear vision of the school and its responsibilities to the children in its care. They develop with teachers, parents, pupils and themselves whole policies that reflect the caring ethos of the school. They ensure that policies and procedures reflect fairness, justice and equality to all. In this way they provide a safe, secure and comfortable learning and working environment.

OTHER ADULTS WORKING IN OUR SCHOOL

Other adults strive to lead by example in ensuring that each child is able to achieve their full potential by the demonstration of good relationships with all in the school.

THE COMMUNITY

The local and wider community has an important contribution to make to the education we provide in St Patrick's P.S. We seek and appreciate the contributions of clergy, education advisory and support staff, music tutors, sports coaches, health professions, students on placement, visitors from various charities and other professionals e.g. local fire service etc. We encourage strong links with the local community by facilitating evening activities such as Zumba, Circuit Training and Comhaltas Group.

ORGANISATION OF PASTORAL CARE WITHIN SCHOOL

Every member of staff in the school has responsibility for ensuring the health and safety and well-being of pupils and the school coordinator for Pastoral Care is Mrs Fiona Kenwell.

Class teachers will seek to develop relationships of trust and understanding within the classroom and hold primary responsibility for the pastoral care of the pupils in their classes.

The designated teacher, Miss McGuinness, and deputy designated teacher, Mrs McFall (Senior Teacher) and Mrs McAree-Kenwell (Pastoral Care Coordinator) are the main links between the members of the school community and external agencies.

They hold additional responsibility for child protection. The designated teacher is the main source of information and advice in relation to child protection for members of the school community and maintains records in relation to this. The deputy designated teacher will assume these responsibilities in her absence.

RECORD KEEPING AND ADMINISTRATION

An information form is completed by the parent/guardian for every pupil and provides information on pastoral and medical matters. This information will be passed on to the relevant class teacher.

The school maintains a register of concerns held by the designated teachers. This contains records of concerns expressed by pupils or teachers reported to the designated teacher together with actions, if any, taken by the school in response to these concerns.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

All parents are provided with an information leaflet giving details of the school's pastoral care arrangements. Parents may make an appointment to see a teacher at a time that is mutually convenient by phoning the school and arranging an appointment through the Principal.

PASTORAL CARE CODE OF PRACTICE

Pupil or parent or auxiliary staff



Class teacher



Designated teacher Miss Mc Guinness(Principal) /
deputy designated teacher (Mrs Mc Fall Senior
Teacher; Mrs McAree-Kenwell Pastoral Care
Coordinator



Advice from E.W.O.
or
Social Services
or
Child Protection Team

**(ALL staff and Governors receive refresher training annually in Child
Protection.)**

CURRICULUM PROVISION

We promote the ethos of our school by teaching and promoting the rules of our school designed to encourage respect for ourselves and others.

Our School Rules.

***In Our School:-
We are gentle;
We are kind and helpful;
We play fair and well with others;
We look after our school and each other;
We listen to each other;
We are honest;
We are allowed to make mistakes
And learn from them.***

Personal safety is addressed through our contact with outside agencies, such as, Fire Service, Road Safety Service, and Cycling Proficiency programme.

- R.E. Grow in Love - Values contained there-in
- Science and environment
- PD & MU
- Road Safety and Health issues

Running alongside this Pastoral Care Policy we have our policies on Child Protection, E-Safety, Positive Behaviour, Special Needs, Anti-bullying, Playtime, Code of Conduct and Healthy Living.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

These are seen by pupils, teachers and parents alike as opportunities for learning outside the classroom which are both enjoyable and beneficial. These are addressed by the ICT Club, Cinema Club, Environmental Club, Football, Art, Irish, Drama. We also offer Home Learning/Booster Literacy & Maths Club (P6 – 7), to name a few ‘extras!’ We aim to continue to widen our choice of extra curricular activities as tutors become available.

LIAISON WITH PARENTS

Parents may telephone or call to make an appointment to speak to teachers or principal at a mutually convenient time. It is best to meet by appointment so that appropriate time can be allocated to ensure the meeting is positive and informative and that any relevant information will be available as needed.

Parents also receive a written report in June each year to highlight all areas of child’s development. Parent Teacher meetings are scheduled for October for all year groups.

There are monthly Newsletters that set out all Diary dates for closures and meetings and upcoming events in school.

The school also operate a Texting Service to all parents/guardians that requires a mobile contact number from parents/guardian to receive the messages from the school. These are normally reminders of Newsletter details/events but will also be required for emergency contact should it be required.

LIAISON WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES

Health Agencies
Dental Agencies
E.W.O.
School Psychology Services
Education Authority, Southern Region
CCMS
Behaviour Team
Peripatetic Support Services
Occupational Therapy

Language and Communication Development
Services
Personal Pupil Development Services
Social Services
NSPCC

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATIONS

We will update this policy in the light of further guidance and legislation as necessary.

The implementation of both policy and procedures will be monitored and on-going evaluation will ensure its effectiveness.

Policy Reviewed:

August 2018