



ST. SCHOLASTICA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. INTRODUCTION

Rationale

An effective Pastoral Care system is essential to provide for our children as they encounter the rapid changes which are taking place in society. Children require all the skills necessary to deal with the rising pressures of media, family, education and peer pressure that they encounter in their daily lives. We at St Scholastica's believe effective Pastoral Care should contribute to the creation of a supportive atmosphere for the whole school community.

Definition

Pastoral Care is composed of different policies, programmes and procedures which encourage each individual child to develop their full potential by catering for their spiritual, moral, emotional, intellectual, physical and social needs, in a safe and secure environment. Each child will be encouraged to develop personal, social, emotional and academic skills to prepare them for the 'outside world'.

Aims

1. We at St Scholastica's are aware of the need to help our children manage their present lives, as well as to help them prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, so we endeavour to provide for the development of the pupil as a person as well as a learner.
2. We aim to develop our pupils' "life skills" – critical thinking, decision making, effective communication, learning from mistakes, which are so necessary for their health and safety in today's society.
3. We aim to provide a caring commitment to guide and advise our pupils on both personal and educational matters and we seek to build up a community of children who care about each other and show respect for themselves and others.
4. The Staff of St Scholastica's aim to build a special relationship with, and a knowledge of, the children in their care and thus endeavour to raise the pupils' social awareness, promote positive attitudes and build their self-esteem.
5. Contributions to the pastoral work of the class teacher will come from their partnership with colleagues, local priests, educational welfare officers, community police, school nurse and other outside agencies.

6. We aim to promote a partnership and close working relationship with parents/guardians whose views and wishes as prime carers will be heard and respected to enable us to support their children's learning.
7. We aim to offer a framework of values and positive behaviour enabling our children to be self-reliant, motivated, self-disciplined and to make choices in a moral context.

2. SPECIFIC ISSUES

Ethos

In St Scholastica's we promote an atmosphere of mutual respect and co-operation which will contribute to the learning process and generate a positive climate within the school community where every individual feels valued and cared for.

Relationships

Many people are interacting daily within the school and consequently a wide range of relationships exist. As a school we will endeavour to promote positive, open relationships in both formal and informal situations.

The school recognises that regular, effective communication is crucial in Pastoral Care and positive relationships will be promoted between:-

- Board of Governors - School
- Head Teacher - Staff
- Staff - Staff
- Staff - Pupils
- Pupils - Pupils
- School - Parents
- School - External Agencies/Community

Values

Every opportunity will be taken to praise our pupils for their contributions to the life of the school. Through positive daily experiences, in addition to curricular activities, we aim to communicate the following positive values and beliefs:-

- Self-respect;
- Honesty;
- Tolerance;

- Respect for others and their property;
- Independence;
- Co-operation;
- Positive behaviour;
- Reconciliation

Self-Esteem

St Scholastica's Primary School recognise that the most important aspect of education is the wholeness of the child. As a school we will encourage children to think positively about themselves and accept their own individuality. We believe that a child's self-esteem will be boosted when they feel valued in all aspects of school life.

At St Scholastica's we will aim to promote positive self-esteem and confidence as these promote learning. Pupils will be involved in a range of activities to allow them all to experience success and thus giving the teachers an opportunity to praise each child.

Personal Safety

Childhood is a time of joy and discovery when children should be nurtured and loved to enable them to grow into caring adults. Part of the process of discovery and growth must also help children to learn how to cope with potential dangers. The safe use of technology is an increasing challenge e.g. internet and mobile phones. St Scholastica's aims to equip our children with the knowledge and skills to make them less vulnerable and more self-confident.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for Pastoral Care in the school.
- The SENCO, Miss Cousins, has overall responsibility for promoting Pastoral Care and fostering positive relationships. In addition, she will review and update the policy, inform and liaise with parents and initiate and ensure

- Pastoral Care is forefront in the school's development plan.
- Teachers have responsibility for promoting Pastoral Care by :-
 - Helping children to make informed decisions;
 - Celebrating success;
 - Building up children's self-esteem;
 - Developing effective communication;
 - Encouraging assertiveness;
 - Encouraging sensitivity.

Teachers build up a knowledge of pupils as individuals and take an interest in their special needs and all round development.
Support staff will contribute to the promotion of Pastoral Care consistent with our policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the Pastoral Care Policy is working effectively in our school, the policy, procedures and practice will be kept under review. We value the contribution that can be made by our teachers, parents and pupils to effect the appropriate change when necessary.

This will be achieved by:-

- Listening to the concerns of pupils and staff and acting on them;
- Listening to the views of pupils raised at School Council Meetings and acting on them;
- Parents being encouraged to inform the school immediately if they have any concerns;
- Parent / Teacher Interview Meetings;
- Staff and Board of Governors Meetings;
- S.E.N. Review Meetings;
- Open Days;
- Induction Days;
- Information Evenings;
- School Newsletters /Termly Curriculum letters

Resources

Pastoral Care encompasses all areas of school life and is important in the development of the 'whole' child. To ensure the implementation of the policy:-

- Pastoral Care is part of the school development plan;
- The Board of Governors and Head Teacher ensure the maintenance of the school environment.

Pastoral Activities

As a school we integrate PSHCE activities into the learning and teaching programme for all children. These activities are also integrated into the play based

learning in the Nursery. The school have purchased a programme called Ten Ten. Ten Ten provide high quality, media rich resources enriching the Catholic ethos of the school.

We introduced a School Council and several other pupil groups (Paplins, Sports Ambassadors, Leaders for Change and Digital Leaders) to promote personal development and develop the active participation of children in the decision-making process of the school.

Agreed By Governors: _____

Signed by Chair of Governors _____ Date _____

Signed by Head teacher _____ Date _____

Review date: May 2024