

PASTORAL CARE - POLICY

‘Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of Community’

Pastoral Care is a systematic approach to education which seeks to value the young person at every level.

Aims:

- To operate a holistic approach creating an environment which enriches the lives of our students.
- To have a pastoral approach which places students at the centre of the school community
- To ensure that Pastoral Care is an integral part of our school.
- To encourage collaboration between students, teachers, parents, management authority and Trustees on pastoral issues.
- To recognise the special needs /difficulties some students may have.
- Show sensitivity to all the demands being placed on students, and to treat all equally regardless of gender, background or ability.
- To help all students/family who may have financial difficulties and ensuring that they are not in any way deprived.
- To offer support and encouragement to staff.

Formulation of Policy:

- **The Pastoral Care Committee.**

Implementation:

- Pastoral Care Co-ordinator and team are appointed.
- The Team to consist of the entire teaching staff but in particular the Principal, Deputy Principals, Tutors, Year heads, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, Guidance Counsellor, Guidance Enhancement Co-ordinator, Chaplain, Home School Liaison Officer, SPHE Co-ordinator, Prefects Co-ordinator, Catechist, Student Council Co-ordinator. Some of this team will meet on a weekly basis **and will form the Pastoral Care Committee.**
- The entire teaching staff will be involved in the pastoral care approach. Special responsibility will be given to Tutors, Year heads, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, Guidance Counsellor, Guidance Enhancement Co-ordinator, Chaplain, Home School Liaison Officer, Special Needs Co-ordinator, Catechist, Student Council Co-ordinator, Guidance Enrichment, Student Council/Prefects and Mentors. Their responsibilities are outlined in the Pastoral Care Booklet.
- The Pastoral Care Co-ordinator’s role is to encourage and support the development of the school towards the goal of being a pastoral school. There are many objectives to this role – to work with the Pastoral Care Team, to co-ordinate the pastoral activities of the school, to support the pastoral awareness and skills of the overall staff, to encourage the participation of parents in the school community and to promote student participation in fostering a good school spirit.
- At the weekly meeting issues such as Yearhead Report (Referral Report) – issues arising therein, Bereavements, Student Achievements, Students in difficulty will be discussed and strategies decided. A review of success of strategies and follow up arrangements will take place. Seminar, training programmes on Pastoral issues will be highlighted and feed back from the national Pastoral Care Organisation will be discussed and promoted.

Monitoring Procedures:

- Each term, the team will examine the structures and procedures that are in place in order to ensure their effectiveness. At regular intervals, a report is given from different representatives of the team, e.g. home school liaison, catechist, etc.

Success Criteria:

- Student achievements are recognised prominently on the honour board.
- Bereavements are noted and condolences etc are passed on
- All Bereavements are taken into account for the Annual Bereavement Mass
- Students in need are referred to the appropriate teachers.
- Reports are received from Year head meetings and action where necessary to support student in difficulty is taken.

Review and Evaluation:

At the end of the year, the Pastoral Care Committee will carry out a review to prepare for the next academic year and to ensure improvements and developments within the area.

Note:

A full outline of the Pastoral Care structure as it operates in our school is detailed in the Pastoral Care Booklet. The booklet is also reviewed on an annual basis.