

St. Joseph's Park Hill School

ST. JOSEPH'S PARK HILL



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Pastoral Care Policy

Mission Statement

**We prepare our children for the challenges of the future
in a nurturing and stimulating environment
built on Catholic foundations.**

April 2023 CG

Rationale

We define Pastoral Care as the created ethos through which our pupils develop and learn to their optimum potential. We provide the opportunity for every pupil to develop into a responsible, self-aware, confident and capable young person equipped to cope with the challenges that their secondary education may bring.

The pastoral dimension of our school involves all pupils and all adults associated with the life of the school and contributes to the creation of a supportive and enriching atmosphere in the school. It has at all times the best for the children, the staff and the wider school community as its principle concern.

Our school accepts that Pastoral Care must form the basis of, and permeate, all aspects of the curriculum. Staff have a genuine interest and concern for the children; and pupils' efforts and achievements are recognised and celebrated. The establishment of good relationships is viewed as vital to our school's success.

Aims

- We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum in a caring environment so that all children will make progress to the best of their ability and be well prepared for transfer to post primary education.
- We aim to ensure that learning supports the development of the pupils' cross-curricular skills and their thinking skills and personal capabilities so that they have self-confidence and respect for themselves and others and can therefore manage their own emotions, regulate their learning and interact effectively with others

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Values

We take every opportunity to teach and model to the children our School Values.

Following the example of our Foundress Catherine Mc Auley, we place great importance on the need for tolerance and understanding and concern for others. We teach our children to follow the example of St Joseph whose values are humility, gentleness and patience. We value respect and we teach our pupils the importance of having respect for their parents, for their teachers, for each other, for God's creation and for themselves. We have a strong belief in the traditional values of hard work, courtesy and good behaviour. We value friendship and forgiveness and our children are taught to "LOVE ONE ANOTHER".

Pastoral Care Structure

Headteacher – Mrs Whitehead – is responsible for ensuring that the pastoral care of each pupil is at the forefront of all we do in school. The Headteacher will ensure that staff have the training and resources to effectively carry out their responsibility to pupil pastoral care.

Mrs Whitehead is responsible for the pastoral care of every staff member, and is the school Adult Mental Health First Aider.

Miss C Grillo is our school Pastoral Leader and Child Mental Health First Aider. She is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the pastoral care policy. She will work with all staff, ensuring that they are properly trained, including peer Inset and coaching.

Class teachers have a responsibility for the pastoral care of the pupils in their class

Non- teaching Staff - Every member of the school staff has pastoral care at the heart of what they do. If there are concerns, they should be reported initially to the child's Class Teacher.

What this means for pupils

Opportunities will be provided for pupils:

- To gain maximum benefit from their time in our school.
- To develop independence of mind and to take responsibility for their own actions.
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect.
- To develop an understanding of themselves as individuals recognising their strengths and limitations, their personal qualities, their attitudes and values.
- To develop respect for the opinions and rights of others and to show tolerance towards them.
- To develop an understanding of the world in which they live.
- To foster relationships where they feel happy and secure.

What this means for teachers

Teachers will:

- Promote a caring and friendly environment where pupils' learning is developed within the context of their individual needs and responsibilities.
- Share a common vision for the school and be involved in realising this vision through for example, the implementation of the School Development Plan.
- Be involved in the development of whole school policies which establish principles for action throughout the school.
- Be provided with opportunities for their own Personal Development.
- Be aware of the children's individual backgrounds, experiences, needs and aspirations.

- Give time and support to those in need.
- Foster relationships where children feel happy, and enthused by the interaction and learning opportunities presented.
- Foster relationships where children feel happy and secure and can come to the class teacher for any reason.
- Promote the ethos of teamwork and partnerships at all levels within the school.
- Be provided with appropriate support when necessary.
- Provide pupils with opportunities both formal and informal to express their ‘pupil voice.’

Teachers will endeavour to build effective, empathic relationships with our pupils in order to provide advice and support whenever necessary. However, we retain awareness of the need for other avenues of support when necessary.

PSHE curriculum

The school curriculum for PSHE is detailed in the PSHE subject policy.

Amongst many other things, the PSHE curriculum builds children’s understanding of how to keep themselves healthy both physically and mentally, and who is available to help them to achieve this. The PSHE curriculum also involves Relationships Education which aims to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for our pupils to make responsible decisions about their relationships.

Pupil Voice

Pupils are provided with many opportunities to express their ‘pupil voice’:

- Individually with their teacher, other staff members or the Headteacher
- In class discussions as part of most lessons in our curriculum, in particular in PSHE, Picture News and RE.
- School Council meetings
- Picture News group meetings
- Sports Leader meetings
- School Sports Crew meetings
- Faith Ambassador team
- House Captains
- Seeds and Gardeners
- Class assemblies
- Worry box
- Pupil questionnaires

PASTORAL CARE

Miss Grillo is the school Pastoral Leader. All children know that they can go to her or any member of staff at any time if they have any worries or concerns about anything.

A “Worry Box” is available for children to write down any concerns they do not feel they can say in person. These are dealt with as soon as possible.

We also have a “Positivity Box” for the children to write down something positive about somebody else in school. These are then read out in Monday’s assembly. This is to promote and recognise positivity throughout school.

Miss Grillo will provide counselling support for children when this is deemed necessary after liaison with the Headteacher. Parents can request counselling support for their child by contacting the Headteacher with their concerns.

Counselling support will be tailored to the individual needs of the child. It may involve individual and/or group sessions. Lego Therapy/ Play-Doh therapy/ Art therapy / Gardening Therapy is sometimes used.

Miss Grillo will have sessions with specific children regularly, however depending on the needs of the child this could be weekly / fortnightly / half termly or even just checking in with them termly. Parents will be consulted about pastoral support for their child and updated on the success of this support. Should we feel that further professional or medical support is necessary, then we will discuss this with parents and advise them where they could access the services they may require.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Parents are encouraged to speak to their child’s teacher about any concerns they have for their child. The teacher will then escalate this concern to the Pastoral Leader or Headteacher if they feel that they cannot resolve the concern in class. We will also encourage parents to share concerns about home circumstances or medical matters which may affect their child’s work or behaviour or well-being in school. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all members of staff; and the Pastoral Leader and Headteacher will monitor and review this. The policy will be reviewed annually.

Equal Opportunities

At St Joseph’s we ensure that no child is excluded from this policy irrespective of age, race, religion, gender, language, sexual orientation, disability or family background.

Links to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, Antbullying policy, Relationships Education policy, PSHE policy, Online Safety policy.

This policy has regard to KCSIE 2021; Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools 2018; Promoting children and young people’s emotional health and wellbeing –DfE/PHE 2015.

Review date: April 2024