

Pastoral Care Policy

Agreed in consultation with BOG

Duneane Primary School

Produced

Agreed by Board of Governors

Duneane Primary School
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Introduction

Rationale

Our pupils are challenged by change on today's society. Duneane Primary has an important role to play in the personal and social development of pupils so effective learning can take place and children can develop skills to enable them to cope with everyday living. Good Pastoral Care is the key to unlocking a child's learning and prompting a happy, caring working environment for the whole school community. Our pupils have the right to be heard, taken seriously and consulted in matters and decisions that affect their lives.

Definition

Pastoral Care is a set of systems and programmes which attempts to meet the totality of needs of our pupils (social, spiritual, mental, emotional, physical) so that every pupil has the opportunity, in a safe environment, to meet his/her full potential in every area of his/her life and is equipped with the skills to cope with the outside world.

Specific Issues

Ethos

Duneane Primary promotes and facilitates a caring, happy atmosphere and environment within both the formal and informal life of the school community. Understanding and co-operation is actively promoted within a climate of mutual respect and we believe that everyone involved in the life of our school has an important role to play and valuable contributions to make.

Relationships

Warm and positive relationships are fostered between:

- Pupil – pupil
- Pupil – staff (teaching and non-teaching)
- Staff – staff
- Staff – parents
- The school Community

Pupils are encouraged to respect themselves and others.

Values

The following values underpin our approach to Pastoral Care at Duneane Primary:

- Mutual respect
- Care and consideration for self and others
- Thoughtfulness and kindness
- Promotion of self respect
- Self-discipline
- Tolerance
- Honesty
- Sharing
- Responsibility

We acknowledge the rights and responsibilities of all members of the school community.

Self-esteem

Duneane Primary promotes the self-esteem of all our pupils in every aspect of school life and recognises the importance of a child finding their own level of achievement and feeling "I matter as a person".

Personal Safety

Pupils develop responsibility for their own personal safety and are able to cope with and recognise possible threats and dangerous situations. This is delivered through the integration of personal safety programmes in the curriculum including:

- Saying no to people when they are afraid or unhappy
- Knowing all adults are not trustworthy
- Knowing all touch is not good
- Good/bad secrets
- Knowing where to get help
- Recognising dangerous situations
- Safety on the road, in school, at home, in the sun and in the water.

Implementation

Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Governors

The BOG have overall responsibility for Pastoral Care within Duneane Primary.

The Principal

The Principal promotes the Pastoral Care policy among staff, pupils, parents and the wider community.

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

The Pastoral Care co-ordinator is the Principal and she ensures that all staff are informed of Pastoral Care issues and have a working awareness of related policies and procedures.

Teachers

Teachers are:

- Delivering the curriculum according to the abilities and aptitudes of individual pupils
- Recognise and acknowledge effort
- Help pupils make informed decisions about issues in terms of right and wrong, remaining sensitive to the beliefs of others
- Promote pupils' self-esteem
- Encourage pupils to be assertive
- Encourage pupils to resist peer pressure
- Help pupils to take responsibility, where appropriate, for their own learning

Non-teaching staff

Non-teaching staff are aware of policies and procedures in relation to Pastoral Care

Staff training

The needs of staff with regard to training are met through attendance at external courses or school based INSET. Staff are updated on issues and are aware of requirements and recommendations of relevant DENI circulars, advice and publications.

The Principal who is the Pastoral Care co-ordinator and other relevant professionals have the responsibility for keeping staff informed.

Resourcing

Resources are reviewed and updated regularly to ensure effective implementation of purposeful Pastoral Care in order that the needs of all pupils are met.

The expertise of teachers and others are fully utilised. Pastoral Care is a feature of our School Development Plan and INSET programmes and has a high profile in all aspects of school life.

Range of Pastoral Activities

Our pupils are encouraged to become involved in activities to promote their personal and social development and develop a wide range of personal interests. Examples of these include:

- Sporting activities
- Quizzes
- Music
- Playing musical instruments
- Cycling proficiency
- School trips
- Community based activities
- Links with other schools within N. Ireland and cross-border.

Supervision

Pupils are supervised as follows:

- from 8.45am to 9.00am by a member of staff, in the playground or the assembly hall
- at break time and lunchtimes by classroom assistants or lunchtime supervisors
- after school P1-P3 pupils are collected at their classroom and P4-P7 make their way to the main gate for travelling home or collection. A teacher will be present each day at the main gate at this time
- supervision, in line with DENI recommendations, will be in place for all school trips or outings
- after school activities will be supervised by the organising teacher with additional support as required.

Pupil induction

Incoming Primary One pupils and their parents attend open and induction days. The induction day involves the parents in a variety of workshops and introduces them to the key members of staff who work with their children. They will also be introduced to professionals from outside agencies who may support the school in a variety of ways the child's time at Duneane Primary School.

Pupils entering other year groups are supported by the class teacher and PC co-ordinator. Parents will be given an information booklet and encouraged to contact the school with any queries or concerns.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Pastoral Care policy is reviewed and updated regularly as required, by the Pastoral Care co-ordinator. The review process will be in consultation with, when appropriate

- BOG – BOG will be involved in reviewing and updating policies and procedures
- Staff – planned staff meetings and INSET
- Parents – interviews, open days, audits
- Pupils – Pupil Council, class meetings.