



Pastoral Care Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the intention of Dromore Primary School to endeavour to promote a safe, stimulating and positive environment in order that everyone can develop those personal and social skills necessary to thrive within the school community.

OUR MOTTO

Believe and Achieve

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that everyone matters.

**We aim to provide high quality
learning experiences in a happy,
secure environment where
everyone feels supported and valued.**

OUR SCHOOL AIMS

1. To develop the potential of each child in a secure, happy and stimulating environment that encourages a sense of confidence and self-worth.
2. To have a school with a caring ethos and one in which everyone feels included and valued.
3. To provide a variety of positive learning experiences, meeting the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.
4. To develop, through purposeful activity, the ability to work independently and also in groups in a tolerant and respectful manner.
5. To foster values and attitudes that can be clearly associated with our school; honesty, fairness, responsibility and cooperation.
6. To encourage the moral and spiritual development of each child and to promote respect for diversity and different cultures in our world.
7. To develop an awareness and respect for our immediate environment and the world in which we live.
8. To provide all stakeholders with opportunities to contribute to the development of the school community.

Aims of this policy:

We aim to ensure that;

- members of staff feel valued and work together as a team;
- relationships between pupils and staff operate on a basis of mutual respect;
- the values, attitudes, beliefs and concerns of pupils are taken seriously;
- there is a promotion of positive relationships, mutual tolerance and respect for others, both within the classroom and socially;
- pupils feel secure and happy, and understand that they can confide in staff regarding personal issues and concerns;
- pupils will develop appropriate self-confidence, self-esteem and self-discipline during their school careers;
- parents are regularly informed about pastoral issues and arrangements, and have confidence in the systems in place;
- good communications are maintained between parents and school and between school and outside agencies;
- a balance is maintained between rewards for positive behaviour and sanctions required for negative behaviour;
- all members of the school community work in a positive, secure and healthy environment.

Provision

The designated teacher with specific responsibility for pastoral care matters is Mrs G Glass who liaises with parents, outside agencies and other school staff. She also creates opportunities for children with personal concerns and other difficulties to meet her on a one-to-one basis. Mrs A Turner is the deputy-designated teacher.

- Staff members are kept informed about personal issues regarding families within the school community which may affect the behaviour and/or attitudes of the children.
- Children are encouraged to confide their concerns or problems in members of staff.
- Members of staff consult regularly to ensure the continuing safety and wellbeing of the children.
- Outside agencies, such as the PSNI, the school nurse, ecological and charitable organisations visit the school on a regular basis to help children develop appropriate personal and social skills and to promote positive attitudes to their lifestyles and environments.
- Regular communication with parents is maintained throughout the year by Newsletters, information meetings, a written report and individual consultations.
- The school implements a Positive Behaviour Policy and a Child Protection Policy.
- Expectations of appropriate behavioural standards are displayed throughout the school and each class has relevant individual displays relating to positive behaviour.
- The school motto, "Believe and Achieve", is prominently displayed in the foyer.
- Pupil's achievements are recognised and valued throughout the school, e.g.

Classroom rewards,
 Pupil of the Month rewards
 Mrs Glass says, "Well done" stickers,
 Certificate/trophy presentations,
 Announcements in assembly
 Displays of photographs

- The school makes it a policy not to reward on the basis of academic ability alone, but also for effort, courtesy, kindness and other special skills.

- The self-esteem and independence of pupils is encouraged by developing musical, artistic, dramatic and sporting skills through after school activities and different performances at different events throughout the year.
- A Child Protection programme is implemented throughout the school to teach self-worth as well as personal safety.
- Records of Achievement reflect the work done throughout the school career of each child.
- Residential visits take place in Key Stage 2, which encourage further development of social skills and independence.
- School uniform is worn to give children a sense of "belonging".
- The school encourages active participation by parents in all aspects of school life in order to promote a positive home-school attitude.

Management

- The principal/designated teacher is kept informed of issues and concerns by members of staff.
- The designated teacher's role includes meeting with outside agencies and inform teachers of relevant circumstances concerning those families with problems.
- The designated teacher maintains and updates a Special Needs Register which has a section relating to pastoral care issues.
- Non-teaching staff are briefed about their responsibilities and the correct line of reporting incidents.
- Members of staff attend relevant courses to refresh skills and learn about new initiatives.
- In-school training is used for the purpose of addressing pastoral needs, of both staff and pupils.

Other relevant policies

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Keeping Safe
- Health and Safety
- Positive Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying
- E-Safety
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU)
- Drugs Education
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Signed:

Date: