

OUR LADY'S & ST MOCHUA'S PS DERRYNOOSE PASTORAL CARE POLICY

SCHOOL VISION

'Reaching for the Future... A Voice Today'

Our school vision is a central theme that is reflected throughout everything that makes our school. This includes relationships, curricular, extra curricular, policy and practice.

'Reaching for the Future... A Voice Today...' means exactly that. We have a common goal in that we are preparing the children for the future and they are striving for the future. In addition everyone involved with the school, pupils, teachers, non teaching staff and parents have a voice and everyone will be listened to.

INTRODUCTION

Pastoral Care plays a crucial role in the development of the ethos of our school. This ethos is based on a Christian Catholic Ethos with emphasis on the intellectual, moral, emotional and spiritual development of each pupil.

The pastoral care dimension deals with the physical and emotional comforts of each individual child. The caring role of all the staff in the school will be evident in all aspects of the child's school life.

We realise that our parents and other outside agencies play a vital role in all aspects of our Pastoral Care and so we strive to work in partnership with them to achieve our aims and to ensure that all associated with our school live out our agreed school vision.

CHANGEMAKER SCHOOL STATUS

The school was selected as a Changemaker School, a new programme to identify, connect, and support innovative primary schools on the island of Ireland. This recognizes our work in developing the key skills and attributes of teamwork, leadership, empathy and creativity with all our children.

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

By working together in Our Lady's & St Mochua's Primary School we aim to provide a warm and caring environment so that each person, both child and adult, associated with the school, can feel safe and secure. In addition, we aim to

- to reflect the religious ethos of our community and to foster the moral, spiritual and religious growth of our pupils, based on the teachings of the Catholic Church
- to provide a broad and balanced curricular programme, based on the Northern Ireland Common Curriculum , which gives all pupils the opportunity to develop academically, socially, emotionally, physically and practically to the best of each individual's potential
- to equip pupils with the knowledge, skills and concepts that are the tools of learning
- to provide opportunities for pupils to grow in self-confidence and independence so that they become responsible, caring and contributing members of their community
- to provide a variety of opportunities for our children to become meaningful *changemakers* – allowing them to develop their skills of empathy, creativity, teamwork and leadership.
- to foster an environment in which this learning and development may take place
- to encourage high standards of discipline, behaviour and respect among pupils for clergy, parents, and other adults
- to develop appreciation of the pupils' own culture and respect for the values of others
- to encourage partnership and mutual support between home and school
- to create an atmosphere in which Primary Education is not seen solely as preparation for Secondary School, but rather that pupils will also enjoy Primary School as a rich and rewarding time in their lives
- to foster effective liaison with the Secondary Schools to which pupils transfer.

ETHOS

In fulfilling our aims we will provide an ordered, yet sympathetic atmosphere permeating all school life.

- Displays of all pupils' work.
- Teachers provide a range of learning styles to promote opportunities for active research and for self expression.
- Supervisory and classroom assistants included in promotion of positive behaviour - praise and reward are fundamental.
- A positive happy learning atmosphere.
- Recognition of individuality and diversity.
- Pupils will be challenged to a maximum potential.
- Provision of a broad, balanced curriculum inclusive of extra curricular activities to give all pupils the chance to excel.
- Provision of a Personal Safety Programme

LIAISON

We will cater for individual pupils' welfare, curriculum delivery and protection for our children by liaison with the following External Support Agencies

- Social Services
- Education Psychologists
- Child Welfare

OBJECTIVES FOR PUPILS

This means encouraging pupils to

- set and achieve social, personal and academic goals.
- gain maximum benefit from time in school.
- become independent and take responsibility for their own actions.
- develop self discipline and self respect.

- respect opinions and rights of others - empathy and tolerance.
- develop understanding of the world we live in.
- foster relationships where they feel happy and secure and can approach teachers with their worries.
- be welcoming and courteous to visitors.
- older pupils guiding younger pupils.
- have their own goals and personal targets.
- have respect for school environment - buildings, resources, etc.
- feel personally responsible for various duties in school, fostering self confidence and a sense of teamwork.
- bring all of the above into all aspects of their lives.

OBJECTIVES FOR TEACHERS

- to have up-to-date information on issues such as child protection, drug education and sex education: they are aware of legal responsibilities and requirements & recommendations of relevant DENI circulars.
- establish a clear vision for the school
- develop whole school policies and practice throughout the school, including child protection, discipline, drugs education, health education.
- promote a caring environment within the context of learning, catering for individual needs and abilities.
- establish appropriate structures of time and support for those in need.
- maintain progress reports.
- provide extra curricular activities e.g. hurling, camogie, football, swimming galas, badminton, chess, GAA quizzes, etc

OBJECTIVES FOR ALL ADULTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SCHOOL

To

- have understanding and empathy with general ethos of school.
- be partners with teachers in providing a caring approach.
- help pupils to achieve their personal goals.
- develop a team approach where each member has a role to play.
- be aware of children's different backgrounds, experiences, needs and aspirations.

OUR SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY

We see our school as

- an extended family where everyone works for the common good.
- a place where parents are made welcome and encouraged to show their support, e.g., interviews, attendance at Masses, sacraments, school productions, Delta programmes, fund raising, sporting events, school newsletter etc.
- Teachers will share duties as part of a mutually supportive team.
- Links with neighbouring schools, e.g. Liturgical celebrations, sporting events, fundraising, competitions, quizzes, Cross Border Links.
- Effective links with schools to which pupils transfer - pastoral visits, open nights, communication, open days.
- Environmental projects in the local community.
- Outside agencies will be sought to extend pupil's experiences, eg. dental nurse, temperance visitors, charities, others as appropriate.
- Links with statutory agencies involved with health and welfare of children, e.g. school doctor, nurse, education welfare officer, social services.

DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF PUPILS

The class teacher, will as far as possible, be aware of the needs, aspirations, interests and academic progress of each pupil in the class. The provision for each child will be appropriate to the progressive developmental needs of the child. We are aware that the needs of the children will change as they develop during their time in our school.

A personal safety programme is delivered to all classes through Circle Time, Science, Clubs, Structured Play, Kidscape and Religion. We aim to empower the children with the knowledge, values/attitudes and skills required to make good choices in their lives.

The development of good inter-personal relationships is vital to ensure mutual respect, positive attitudes, happiness and security for both pupils and staff. Pupils will be encouraged in the classroom to assist one another, care for one another and develop the skill of listening, thereby promoting in them tolerance and respect for others.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Pastoral care remains a permanent feature of our School Development Plan and so staff training and development are considered essential to support this. As opportunities arise we, as a staff, will avail of all the help and assistance which is available. This on-going development programme will help us to identify the values, attitudes, skills and knowledge which will enable us to carry out our pastoral roles.

RELATED POLICIES

Policies linked to Pastoral Care include Child Protection, Intimate Care, Anti Bullying and Positive Behaviour. These are all available in the school.

MONITORING AND EVALUATING

This policy is continually monitored by the school principal. This policy will be reviewed every three years and/or up dated when advice is given by DENI. All stake holders will be involved in the review through a consultation process.

Signed:

Chairman of the Board of Governors:

Date: