

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Definition:

Pastoral Care is providing a caring and nurturing environment for students within our school. We recognise that each and every member of staff plays a role in the care of our students' needs.

We agree with the definition of Pastoral Care given by J. Matthew Feheney FPM ” The integration of the academic, social, emotional and religious education of our students so that an atmosphere of care obtains in the school community.” (Feheney, 1998)

This is achieved by each member of the school community contributing to the best of his/her ability and in particular through the care (pastoral and other) we show for one another.

Aims:

1. To encourage the holistic development of the student on a personal and social level.
2. To encourage the participation of students in curricular and non curricular activities thus improving their self-esteem.
3. To identify support needed by students to access the full curriculum.

Pastoral Care Team:

Principal – Mr. Ernan Britton

Deputy Principal – Ms.MaryAnne Fogarty

S.P.H.E. Teachers – Ms. Marie Maher and Ms.Caitriona McKeogh

HSCL Co Ordinator – Ms.Margaret O’Neill

Guidance Counsellor – Mr. Justin McGree

S.C.P. Co Ordinator - Ms. Sinead Burke

Role of the Pastoral Care Team

1. To develop and implement an Induction Programme
2. To support and foster activities which will encourage the holistic development of the pupils e.g. a wide range of subject choice appropriate to their ability levels and provide opportunities for the development of good citizenship and social contact through involvement in the Meals on Wheels Programme, the Lourdes Pilgrimage, Daffodil Day, Fund raising for a school in Tanzania, the Credit Union, Drama etc.
3. To overview the general atmosphere and positive ambience within the school and to strive to maintain it.
4. To be watchful for pupils who may be experiencing difficulties and request teachers to bring such issues to its attention so that appropriate support may be offered.
5. To refer students who are brought to the attention of the Care Team with a view to recommending a home visit by the HSCL Co-Ordinator where appropriate.
6. To implement a system of referral from the Care Team to the HSCL Co-Odinator for pupils who may require additional support or intervention.

Referrals :

By referrals we mean procedures whereby pupils in need of assistance are brought to the attention of the Pastoral Care Team, namely – pupils can be referred by any member of the school staff, teaching and ancillary, by parents / guardians or by fellow pupils.

Upon receipt of a referral the Pastoral Care Team or a member of the Team will decide whether the referral requires a general intervention e.g. a Team meeting or an individual intervention e.g. informal advice or assistance.

If it is an ongoing or more serious problem the Team should convene, discuss the case and decide what strategy should be adopted.

Pastoral Care Support Services can be divided into those provided by the Team themselves, mainly advice, counselling, support, referrals, encouragement, raising awareness, problem solving etc. and outside agencies to whom the Team would only make a referral if it is felt that it is beyond their remit or capability to deal with the matter e.g. medical, psychological, neurological etc.

Some of the problems arising and coming to the attention of the Pastoral Care Team would be addressed by means of other policies e.g. the Anti Bullying or Substance Misuse Policy.

The Pastoral Care Team will aim to meet every week to consider how the policy is working and to co-ordinate and consider any concerns that are brought to its attention.