

Bellaghy Primary School

Pastoral Care

**Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:
Mrs ML Richmond (Principal)**

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

INTRODUCTION

At Bellaghy Primary School we aim to create **"an atmosphere in which young people feel secure, know that they are valued as individuals, and are encouraged in their learning, growth and social development in a healthy and safe environment"**.

(Evaluating Pastoral Care 1999)

At our school, we encourage parents, governors, teachers, other professionals and outside agencies to work together to provide a safe and challenging learning environment, to enable each child to excel in all areas of their development.

"The values which underline successful personal safety cannot be taught didactically, but can most effectively be fostered through the ethos of a school and positive role models provided by the adults within the school".

(Integrating Personal Safety Programmes into the Curriculum CCEA)

THE AIMS OF OUR SCHOOL

Governors and staff are deeply committed to the development of the whole child and this can be evidenced in the overall aims of the school.

RATIONALE

The quality of pastoral care influences the ethos and tone of the whole school. In today's world there is a legal obligation and a definite need for effective pastoral in schools.

In the 21st century children are faced with changing home backgrounds and more than one model of a family unit. There are very real challenges in terms of child abuse and parental difficulties in raising children.

Children are living in a world where they are encountering ever-changing messages and influences from society towards sex, drugs and leisure in relation to health. Bullying is a very real issue.

In our school, we aim to maximise children's' learning in all of the above areas in a sensitive and structured manner. We aim to enable the pupils to

grow in self-esteem, become informed and have the confidence to make good choices and decisions for their ultimate benefit.

DEFINITION OF PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is concerned with promoting pupils personal, social, emotional and spiritual development and fostering positive attitudes:

- Through the quality of learning and teaching in all areas.
- Through the effective delivery of our Circle Time programme
- Through the nature of relationships amongst pupils, teachers and other adults in the school.
- Through arrangements for monitoring pupils overall progress, academic, personal and social.
- Through extra-curricular activities and the school ethos.
- Through the prompt and thorough investigation of all incidents of bullying.
- Through the promotion of the positive, inclusive Code of Conduct, which has been drawn up, agreed and understood by all children, staff and parents. (In accordance with D.E. Circular 2003/11)

PASTORAL CARE HELPS OUR SCHOOL ACHIEVE SUCCESS

RESPONSIBILITIES

At Bellaghy Primary School, we approach the care of our children in a positive way. We place great emphasis on the well-being and welfare of all of the children in our care.

All staff have a responsibility to help create and maintain a positive, caring learning environment. At our school, all staff including the caretaker, the secretary, classroom assistants, lunch time supervisor, kitchen staff and all teaching staff work together to promote a safe and happy work place.

Parental involvement is given high priority in the life of our school. Both governors and staff strongly believe that "parents are the child's first and continuing educators." The school actively seeks to work in partnership with parents. Parents are a valuable resource and can contribute greatly to the life of the school and support the work of the staff.

The Co-ordinator's role is to :

- **Monitor and Evaluate Pastoral Care throughout the school.**
- **Liaise with all staff to clarify roles, structures and procedures in relation to Pastoral Care.**
- **Report to Board of Governors**

Policy – Reviewed May 07 (MLR)

Reviewed by the Board of Governors - October 2009

