



Ballymacward Primary School

Pastoral Care Policy

Rationale

As well as our statutory obligations in relation to pupils' learning, we also have a pastoral responsibility towards the welfare of all staff and children in our school. Pastoral Care weaves an invisible thread through relationships, the learning, the teaching and all interactions that affect the life of our school.

Our Pastoral Care Policy will:

- . Promote self esteem
- . Develop a caring attitude towards the personal and social development of all pupils
- . Ensure consistency in the way we protect children and each other.

Our Mission Statement

As a Catholic School our policy is to encourage the practice of Christian values and attitudes.

We aim to provide:

- An atmosphere which encourages children to respect themselves and others
- An environment in which our children can learn and grow spiritually, academically, aesthetically and physically.

We aim to build a system whereby staff members may develop professionally in order to facilitate the needs of our pupils.

At Ballymacward Primary School we promise to create a safe and happy environment so that our pupils can learn to their full potential.

For pupils this means encouraging them:

- To set and achieve personal, social and academic goals through a planned and developmental programme;
- To gain maximum benefit from their time at school;
- To develop independence and to take responsibility for their own actions;
- To develop self discipline and self respect;
- To develop an understanding of themselves as individuals – their strengths and weaknesses, their personal qualities, their attitudes and values;
- To develop a respect for the opinions of others;
- To develop an understanding of the world we live in;

For teachers this means:

- Establishing a clear vision of the school with its pupils, its community and its point of development;
- Developing whole school curriculum policies;
- Promoting a caring environment where pupils' learning is developed within the context of their individual needs and abilities;
- Providing them with opportunities for their own professional development;
- Establishing appropriate structures of time and support for those in need;

For adults associated with the school this means:

- Understanding and having an empathy with the general ethos of the school;
- Being partners with the teachers in providing a caring approach;
- Helping pupils achieve their individual goals;
- Developing a team approach;

Ethos

The pastoral dimension is central to the ethos of our catholic school. The atmosphere the school wishes to create is ordered yet sympathetic.

- Teachers display all children's work;
- Classroom assistants / supervisory assistants are included in discussions promoting a positive behavioural programme;

Caring Attitude

A caring approach to all activities is a priority.

- A positive discipline approach is being adopted, where praise and reward are fundamental;
- Knowledge of particular home circumstances are acted upon sensitively;
- The concept of home / school contract is explored. See 'Caring for Each Other and Our School' and 'Parents' Guide to Pastoral Care'

Attitudes to Learning

The pastoral dimension influences the attitudes to learning.

- The teachers provide a range of learning styles;
- Learning is carried out in a happy atmosphere where each child is treated as an important individual;
- Pupils with special needs are integrated with other children;
- Children are stretched in their educational development through appropriate and challenging tasks;

School as Community

The school as a community is seen as an extended family where everyone works for the common good.

- Parents are made welcome in the school and encouraged to feel that their role is important;
- Parents provide support in a variety of ways – fund raising activities, accompanying children on outings, library duties;
- Teachers share duties as part of a mutually supportive team;
- People from the community are invited to speak to children doing local history projects;
- The school has close links with Church singing at various religious ceremonies;
- Links have been made with neighbouring primary schools;

Activities

The pastoral dimension permeates all activities.

- Individual classes work together on projects;
- Local industries are supportive to school events;

Development of Inter-Personal Relationships

The school considers that the development of good inter-personal relationships is vital to ensure:

- Mutual respect
- Happiness and security for both pupils and staff
- Positive attitudes

Areas of Experience

The pastoral dimension means that children are offered a wide variety of experiences during their time at school.

Discipline procedures

A positive behavioural programme to enhance self-esteem has been adopted where self-discipline is encouraged.

All pupils / staff / parents and Governors are aware of the **School Discipline Policy**;

Use of Mobile Phones / Internet

The use of mobile phones by pupils in school is forbidden and staff may only use their mobiles during personal time. Images of pupils taken by mobile phones are strictly prohibited. See separate **Policy for the Use of the Internet and Digital Technologies**

Extra Curricular Activities

At Ballymacward Primary School we encourage a positive attitude to extra curricular activities.

- We offer a wide range of activities during the school year, including: Breakfast Club, Waiting Class, Badminton, Glee Club, Soccer, Gaelic Football, Hurling, Dodge Ball, Film Club, Choir, etc.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

This school encourages the development in pupils of a wide range of personal and social attributes is encouraged along with the importance of having responsibility for one's actions. See PDMU Policy and RSE Policy.

The school promotes individual talents in music, art and physical education;

Health Education

Implicit in the pastoral dimension is the development of a programmed for Health Education throughout the school.

- The school has established contact with relevant agencies;
- A **Healthy Eating Policy** has been established throughout the school;
- A whole-school policy has been established in relation to child protection.
- A **Health and Safety Policy** is in place.

Health Issues

Parents are asked to inform the school of any health problems their child might have. In the event of problems arising appropriate action will be taken as agreed by parents, class teacher and principal. When necessary, individual care / action plans are put in place by the appropriate health professionals. See also the following policies:

- **Health & Safety**
 - **First Aid**
 - **Medicines**
 - **Drugs**
 - **Smoking**
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This Policy Incorporates a number of other school policies and related documentation which are listed below:

- Pastoral Care Policy [WEB](#)
 - Parents Guide to Pastoral Care [WEB](#)
 - Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy [WEB](#)
 - How to Raise a Concern with Regard to Child Protection [WEB](#)
 - Missing Child Policy [WEB](#)
 - Anti-Bullying Policy [WEB](#)
 - Intimate Care Policy [WEB](#)
 - Parent Confirmation of Receipt of policy
 - Reporting Child Abuse: Procedures Flowchart
 - Dealing with Allegations Against a Member of Staff
 - Designated Officers and Contact Details
 - Child Protection Incident Report Form (CPIR1)
 - Reporting Child Abuse Follow-up Proforma
 - Parental Consent Form
 - Visitor Guidelines and Code of Conduct
 - Mobile Phone
 - Code of Conduct for Employees
 - Parental Complaints Procedure
 - Application for Voluntary Activities Form
 - Volunteer Reference Form
 - Discipline Policy [WEB](#)
 - General Rules
 - Guidelines for Lunchtime
 - Record of Parent Meetings
 - Behaviour Report: Meeting with Parents
 - Daily Behaviour Assessment
 - Weekly Behaviour Assessment
 - A Promise: Caring for Our School and Each Other
 - Ballymacward Code Ode [WEB](#)
 - A Teachers' Promise
 - Parents Role in Supporting the School's Discipline Policy [WEB](#)
 - Code of Conduct for Educational Visits
 - Internet and Digital Technologies Policy
 - Pupils' Rules for the Internet
 - eSafety Policy (Internet Safety Advice for Parents)
 - Internet Permission Form
 - Health & Safety Policy [WEB](#)
 - First Aid Policy
 - Accident Report Form
 - Fire Evacuation Procedures
 - Emergency Closures Policy
 - Policy for the Administration of Medicines
 - Smoking Policy
 - Drugs Policy
 - PDMU [WEB](#)
 - RSE Policy [WEB](#)
 - RE Policy [WEB](#)