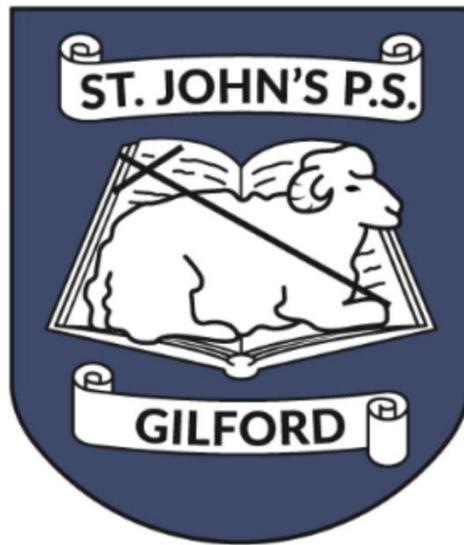


St. John's Primary School Gilford



Pastoral Care Policy

Policy Adopted: Autumn 2019
Next Review Date: Autumn 2021

Signed: _____
(Chair of Governors)

Date: _____

Mission Statement

At St. John's the child is at the heart of our school and the wider Catholic faith community. As a school, we aim to provide a high standard of child centred education in a safe, supportive, learning environment, where respect and Catholic values are promoted.

An effective Pastoral Care system is required as a result of the rapid changes which are taking place in society. Children require all the skills necessary to deal with the rising pressures of media, family, education and peer pressure that they encounter in their daily lives. Effective Pastoral Care should contribute to the creation of a supportive atmosphere for the whole school community.

Definition

Pastoral Care is composed of different policies, programmes and procedures which encourage each individual child to develop their full potential by catering for their spiritual, moral, emotional, intellectual, physical and social needs, in a safe and secure environment. Each child will be encouraged to develop personal, social and academic skills to prepare them for the "outside world".

Aims

We at St. John's aim:

1. To ensure that each pupil feels valued, special and unique and a member of the school community.
2. To instill a sense of personal worth and dignity through intellectual, moral and spiritual development.
3. To empower pupils in building and monitoring good relationships with pupils, teachers and others.
4. To assist individuals to develop their lifestyles, appreciate life and respect the world in which they live.
5. To encourage a sense of personal accountability for their own learning and actions.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

Ethos

In St John's we promote an atmosphere of mutual respect, inclusivity and cooperation which will contribute to the learning process and generate a positive climate within the school community where every individual feels valued and cared for.

Relationships

Many people are interacting daily within our school and consequently a wide range of relationships exist. As a school we will endeavour to promote positive, open relationships in both formal and informal situations.

The school recognises that regular, effective communication is crucial in Pastoral Care and positive relationships will be promoted between:

-  Board of Governors - School
-  Principal - Staff
-  Staff - Staff
-  Staff - Pupils
-  Pupils - Pupils
-  School - Parents
-  School - External Agencies/Community

The experience of Pastoral Care for All our Children

The adult school personnel will:

-  Encourage respect for self and others
-  Promote courteous behaviour to everyone
-  Develop positive relationships among peers and adults
-  Be consistent and fair so that children will feel secure and know the parameters within which they must behave
-  Be an instrument for advice and guidance
-  Be a support in times of difficulty
-  Accept and empathise with unique experience of each child

For our Staff

All staff will be accorded consideration and respect at all times.

-  Respect for their individual dignity
-  A supportive affirming community of fellow workers
-  Opportunities to develop personally and professionally
-  A tolerance of their weaknesses
-  A sharing of strengths and talents

For our Parents/Guardians

Our parents/guardians will

-  be involved fully in the pastoral care of the school community
-  enjoy positive relationships with all school personnel
-  be made aware of the arrangements whereby they may meet with staff

-  be confident of a welcoming spirit and mutual support
-  be partners with staff

Values

Every opportunity will be taken to praise our pupils for their contributions to the life of the school.

We will hold a celebration of the children's success's each week at Assembly. Star of the Month will be awarded to a child in each class and they will receive a certificate, badge and pencil. Their photo will also be displayed and published on our school website. As a school we will also provide opportunities for positive daily experiences, in addition to curricular activities.

We aim to communicate the following positive values and beliefs:

-  Self-respect
-  Honesty
-  Tolerance
-  Respect for others and their property
-  Independence
-  Co-operation
-  Positive behaviour
-  Reconciliation

Self-Esteem

St John's Primary School recognises that the most important aspect of education is the wholeness of the child. As a school we will encourage children to think positively about themselves and accept their own individuality. We believe that when a child's self-esteem will be boosted then they feel valued in all aspects of school life.

The school will aim to promote positive self-esteem and confidence as these promote learning. Pupils will be involved in a range of activities so that all can experience success and thus giving the teachers an opportunity to praise each child.

Personal Safety

Childhood is a time of joy and discovery when children should be nurtured and loved so they can grow into caring adults. Part of the process of discovery and growth must also help children to learn how to cope with potential dangers. The safe use of technology is an increasing challenge e.g. internet and mobile phones. We at St John's, aim to equip children with the knowledge and skills to make them less vulnerable and more self-confident.

Home/School Partnership

-  School should be seen as an extension of the family.
-  School and home should be committed to a common ideal namely the holistic development of each individual
-  Adults at home and in school will be a positive role model for our children by working to the same end and displaying respect for each other at all times
-  Links with other schools will be fostered to ensure the easy induction of our Primary 1 children and for the transition of our Primary 7 children to second level education
-  We will have strong links with our Shared Education School – Seagoe P.S and both staff will work together to promote an inclusive partnership

The School in the Community

Our aim will be to foster in our children an awareness of the wider community

-  We will involve children in the support of charities and care for others
-  We will encourage participation in community activities
For example:
 - Tullylish Parish church activities
 - Cultural activities such as Banbridge & Portadown Feis
 - Sporting activities such as the Parish Cup, Christian Aid 5-a-side etc

Our children will add to the life of the community

-  By reading and participating at Mass
-  By presenting a Christmas Play or Carol Service in St. John's Church or GCC Hall

Personal Development

Personal Development will be taught through the delivery of Religious Education/P.D.M.U./Pastoral Care Provision. Contact will be made with outside agencies such as P.S.N.I., Fire Service etc. Groups/Speakers etc. dealing with Pastoral Care Issues such as Bullying, Respecting Diversity will be invited in to school. We participate annually in the celebration of Anti-Bullying Week & Catholic Schools' Week.

Discipline

Our Pastoral Care Policy will enhance discipline by promoting:

-  RESPECT FOR SELF AND OTHERS
-  TOLERANCE

SELF DISCIPLINE

IMPLEMENTATION

Roles and Responsibilities

-  The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for Pastoral Care in the school
-  The Principal has overall responsibility for promoting Pastoral Care and fostering positive relationships. In addition, she will review and update the policy, inform and liaise with parents and initiate and ensure Pastoral Care is forefront in the School's Development Plan.
-  Teachers have responsibility for promoting Pastoral Care by:
 - Helping children to make informed decisions
 - Celebrating success
 - Building up children's self-esteem
 - Encouraging assertiveness
 - Encouraging sensitivity
 - Developing effective communication

Teachers build up knowledge of pupils as individuals and take an interest in their special needs and all round development. Support staff will contribute to the promotion of Pastoral Care consistent with our policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the Pastoral Care Policy is working effectively in our school, the policy procedures and practice will be kept under review. We value the contribution that can be made by our teachers, parents and pupils to effect the appropriate change when necessary.

This will be achieved by:

-  Listening to staff and pupils concerns and acting on them
-  Parents being encouraged to inform the school immediately if they have any concerns
-  Parent/Teacher Interview meetings
-  Staff and Board of Governors meetings
-  S.E.N. Review meetings
-  Induction Days
-  Information Evenings
-  Our Termly Newslink

Staff Training

Training will be updated in relation to policies, procedures and pastoral issues and staff will be informed of Department of Education changes. Support staff will be updated on policies and procedures by the Principal. Staff will attend relevant courses provided by CASS and external agencies. "Baker Days" and directed time will be used for training as required.

Resourcing

Pastoral Care encompasses all areas of school life and is important in the development of the "whole" child. To ensure the implementation of the policy:

- 🏰 Relevant resources will be purchased for use in class
- 🏰 Time is allocated for review, training and implementation of change.
- 🏰 Pastoral Care is part of the School Development Plan.
- 🏰 The Board of Governors and Principal ensure the maintenance of the school environment.

Pastoral Activities

As a school we encourage pupils to participate in a range of activities to develop self-esteem and self-confidence. Activities include: sport, music, speech and drama and competitions.

Supervision

School starts at 9.00am. In the morning children should go directly to their classroom. Parents should be aware that if pupils arrive earlier than 8.50am there will be no supervision therefore it is vitally important that children wait quietly at their classroom. Classroom assistants and duty teachers will supervise the pupils at break time. Supervisory assistants will supervise the pupils at lunchtime.

After school, parents/carers will collect P1 - P3 pupils from the school gate at 2.00p.m. If pupils are not collected after a short time they will be supervised by the classroom assistant, teacher or Principal until a "named" collector can be contacted.

If a parent requires their child to leave school during the day, the teacher should be informed in writing and the child collected from the school office at the appropriate time. The parent will be required to fill in the 'sign out' book.

All staff are involved in the supervision of children to ensure safety at all times between 8.50am and 3.00pm each day.

Induction

Primary One

In St. John's we recognise that coming to school for the first time is a very important and emotional step for parents and children alike. To assist in this transition, P.1 children and their parents are invited to visit the school in June - prior to starting school in September. They are given a welcome pack which contains all relevant information for their parents. Parents are given a brief 'Introduction to P.1' talk delivered by the class teacher. This provides an opportunity for parents to meet each other, and to become familiar with relevant school policies and procedures and discuss how they can assist and support their children in Primary 1. Individual arrangements can be made to facilitate prospective parents and their children if this is inconvenient.

New Pupils

Parents of children transferring to St John's are given an appointment during which the parents will meet the Principal. They will receive a Prospectus, a tour of the school and any other documentation required. The child/children changing schools are invited to attend a meeting with their new teacher and then begin the next day where they are introduced to their classmates.

School Trips

The Health and Safety Provision for children participating in School Trips is of the utmost importance. Guidelines from EA will be adhered to.

Medication

The Principal and Staff are committed to supporting pupils with specific Medication Needs. D.O.E. Guidelines will be adhered to in regard to the administration of medicine.

Charities

Statement of Raising funds for Charities

Aims

-  To encourage a spirit of generosity and care for others
-  To encourage children to look outside of their own needs and to think of others
-  To give children a practical way of expressing Christian charity

Strategy

We will have one major appeal per term. Other incidental charitable causes may also be supported.

We will try to have a balanced approach between a local charity, a third world charity and one other. The other may be the result of an outside agency e.g. N.S.P.C.C. approaching school, or may be in response to an emergency or crisis situation e.g. a famine, or a charity suggested by a member of staff or parent.

The selection of the charity for our third appeal of the year will be made on a whole staff basis early in the third term.

Plan for Charitable Collections

Term 1: Local Charity e.g Southern Area Hospice

Term 2: Trocaire

Term 3: 1 other charity