



PASTORAL CARE

A Guide for Parents
2020

Introduction

The Pastoral Care Guide for Parents sets out the main elements of St Joseph's provision for the pastoral care of children. We are committed to ensuring the holistic development of the children and to that end we strive to create a positive ethos in our school.

Our work is focused on developing each child spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically and emotionally. The teachers work continuously to assist each child to achieve their full potential. Efforts are made to build up the children's self-esteem and to create an atmosphere of tolerance and respect for others. Alongside the academic work, there are a host of activities ongoing in the school that are designed to lead the children to a fuller development as individuals. All staff strive to create an environment that is conducive to learning.

The creation and maintenance of an orderly working environment is a pre-requisite to effective learning and teaching therefore, promoting positive behaviour is an important element of the school's work. The Behaviour Management policy and the Anti-Bullying policy set out the strategies used to encourage good behaviour.

The educational process is a partnership between home and school and we depend upon the support of the parents in our efforts to provide a safe environment for all of the children. In order to clarify for parents and carers the key elements of our pastoral care for the pupils we have published the main policies which underpin the pastoral care provision in St Joseph's on the school website and App. These documents can be accessed by following the link <http://www.stjosephscarryduff.com/Policies>. Alternatively, you can access the policies in the Parent Information section of the St Joseph's App. Parents may also request a hard copy of any of these documents.

These important policies and procedures include:

- 1) Our Vision, Values, Mission and Aims
- 2) An Outline of our Pastoral Care Provision
- 3) Behaviour Management Policy
- 4) Child Protection and Safeguarding
- 5) Anti-Bullying Policy
- 6) R.S.E. (Relationships and Sexuality Education) Policy
- 7) eSafety and Acceptable Use of the Internet and Digital Technologies Policy
- 8) Attendance Policy
- 9) Administration of Medication Policy

Our Vision

We Learn, Pray and Play Together

Our Values:

Learn: a love of learning inspiring achievement

Pray: Christ-centred, caring and valuing each person

Play: developing relationships, confidence and self-esteem

Together: a supportive, respectful and inclusive community

Our Mission Statement

St Joseph's continues the mission of Christ entrusted to the Church to "go and teach" and seeks to foster and promote Christian spirituality within an ethos of inclusivity and pastoral care.

Integral to the vision that underpins all aspects of life in our Catholic school is the dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God. It includes a recognition of the self-worth and value of every child and the fostering of the key values of Catholic education. Through the promotion of mutual understanding and respect for all ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, we seek to create an inclusive and supportive environment in which all members of our school community feel valued.

We aim to provide a caring and safe environment in which all children can grow in self-esteem, independence and confidence. Our care for the children enables their holistic development; spiritually, physically, intellectually, morally, emotionally and socially.

Arising from this commitment to develop each individual child, a culture of achievement, improvement and ambition exists which is underpinned by a clear expectation that all pupils can and will achieve to the very best of their ability.

By learning, praying and playing together, we grow as a community in which children, parents, staff and governors demonstrate a commitment to achieving high standards, mutual care and support of each other whilst being constantly invited to rediscover what it is to follow Christ and to give witness to the centrality of Gospel values.

Our Aims:

In our school we aim to develop for our children:

- An awareness of their dignity being made in the image and likeness of God and their unique talents, skills, abilities
- A Catholic ethos, which seeks to foster and promote Christian spirituality within an ethos of inclusivity and pastoral care building a deeper understanding of and respect for physical, cultural and ethnic differences within the school community and the wider world.

- The confidence to attain their full potential through a deeper understanding of a broad and balanced curriculum.
- A love of lifelong learning, whereby children are motivated by the joy of developing their knowledge and skills.
- Independence; an active engagement in and ownership of their learning and involvement in discussions and decisions on school life.
- A lively and enquiring mind, the ability to question, make connections in their learning, show initiative, embrace new challenges and take informed decisions.
- A respect for the school community which develops self-discipline, courtesy, empathy and tolerance fostering an appreciation of the achievements and aspirations of others
- An awareness of responsibilities for the environment and how our actions impact upon it.
- An understanding of the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices.
- An effective partnership and good relationships with parents and the wider community.

Aims of the Pastoral Care System,

- To promote the physical, academic, social, moral and spiritual development of all pupils.
- To establish and maintain secure personal relationships.
- To provide an environment that will enable each pupil to develop self-esteem and a positive self-image.
- To develop within our pupils a sense of self respect and a willingness to understand, respect and tolerate the views of others.

- To create within our school a caring, Catholic community where good behaviour, self discipline and a proper regard for authority are cultivated.
- To encourage regular attendance and punctuality.
- To assist pupils who experience problems.
- To promote positive relationships and effective communication within the school environment and with parents.
- To help pupils develop a pride in their work.
- To encourage pupils to make a positive contribution to school life and the wider community.

ETHOS

In St. Joseph's we fully appreciate that a good ethos or atmosphere does not come about by chance. All our members of staff are committed to creating an atmosphere of care and respect towards each individual child. We are also committed to ensuring the emotional and physical welfare of the pupils as well as their academic progress.

We continually endeavour to maintain good relationships between members of staff, with children, parents and external agencies.

Much of our Pastoral Care is integrated into our daily routines, in all areas of the curriculum and our extra curriculum activities.

LIAISON WITH PARENTS

In St. Joseph's we value and appreciate the support we receive from parents in all aspects of school life. We are aware that the children benefit immensely through a positive partnership between home and school.

The school recognises the rights and expectations of parents and acknowledges that we cannot achieve our aims if we do not work together.

Should problems or misunderstandings arise we seek to listen to the concerns of parents and work positively with them to reach a resolution.

We meet our parents on two occasions during the year. The first meeting is in October and the second meeting is scheduled for February. A written report is also issued in June.

There is an 'open' door policy and parents will find that school staff are readily available to discuss any concern which may arise. If parents are anxious about anything they can ring the school and arrange to meet their child's teacher at a mutually convenient time.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Currently we have a wide range of after school activities including, drama, dance, soccer, basketball, Gaelic football, band, orchestra, choir, recorder group etc. all to encourage children to become actively involved in other activities and interests.

Being part of an after school activity provides an opportunity for a child to develop his/her talents in whatever area they have chosen to participate in. We aim to improve each child's self-esteem. Social skills can also be improved through meeting with other children from different classes in a more relaxed environment.

Each after school activity leader is aware that the emotional and physical well-being of each child attending their activity is paramount. They understand school procedures and always adhere to these.

LIAISON WITH EXTERNAL SUPPORT AGENCIES

We recognise that problems can arise which may require the involvement of outside agencies. The school will seek the help and support of various external agencies when such situations arise, for example:

- Educational Welfare Officer
- Social Services
- Educational Psychologists
- Health Agencies
- Other organisations that support the work of the school e.g. NSPCC, Women's Aid, PSNI, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council etc.