



# **Pastoral Care Policy**

## PASTORAL CARE IN NEW ROW

The school community of New Row have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge, and we will carry out this duty through our Pastoral Care Policy.

Our Pastoral Care Policy aims to provide a caring supportive and safe environment valuing individual's for their unique talents and abilities. In this environment of care all our young people can learn to develop to their full potential.

As a Catholic School we are committed to the development of the whole human being....

***"The religious dimension constitutes the distinctive nature of a Catholic school"***

The pastoral care of the individual child is of paramount importance in New Row. From the minute your child enrolls in our school we will work in partnership with you parents to ensure that their Pastoral Care needs are met. These needs may range across a number of areas including health and safety, religious education, academic progress, etc. We have many policies and procedures in place to ensure the safety of your child and to ensure they are happy at school.

One way in which we seek to protect our children is by helping them learn about the risks of possible abuse, helping them to recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe.

Mission Statement

***'As a Catholic school we in New Row are committed to the development of the whole human being. We aim to create a loving and caring school community where all members of this community are valued as equals.***

***The values which sustain Pastoral care are inspired by Christ and his faithful love for us. There is a deep love for Christ and for each other in our Catholic school. This love is made visible in our approach and our caring role for each other. Within New Row we have established a network of supportive relationships based on mutual trust and respect. In this context parents, pupils and all staff members share their mission to show a loving concern for each other. In New Row we aim to provide a happy, safe and secure teaching and learning environment in which the needs of pupils and staff are met with support and understanding. We hope that our work reflects ideals such as mutual respect, trust and honesty. We care for others particularly, those in need.'***

All members of the school community share a sense of belonging and have an important part to play in the cultivation of self respect and self worth of every individual. In our Pastoral care policy we as teachers and all the staff of New Row Primary school have a moral responsibility to the children in our care.

The Pastoral Care of the individual child is of paramount importance in New Row School. From the moment your child enrolls in our school we will work hard in partnership with you to ensure that their pastoral care needs are met. These needs may range across a number of areas including health and safety, religious education, academic progress etc. New Row has in place many policies and procedures to ensure that your child is happy and safe at school.

The purpose of this leaflet is to explain these policies and how they might relate to your child. We are continuously evaluating the success of these procedures and we would welcome any input from parents or indeed any comment on the contents of this leaflet.

### **Beginning School**

Before your child attends school we arrange an induction day when you and your child can visit the P1 classroom. This is an opportunity for you gain information about the P1 curriculum and the care your child will receive in school. You will also receive welcome booklets and access to policies and it is an opportunity for you to raise any concerns you may have concerning your child.

### **Induction of new pupils arriving during term time.**

We also have procedures for new pupils who arrive in school during term time. This includes welcome booklets and if possible an initial visit to meet the class teacher and the class. New parents will receive our general information leaflets and we in turn will be able to gather any relevant information regarding your child.

### **Child Protection**

#### Statement of responsibility:

It is our duty as teachers to protect the children in New Row Primary school under the Child Protection Order (NI) 1995.

‘The welfare of the child must be the paramount consideration’ Children (Northern Ireland Order 1995)

Child protection procedures are in line with DENI guidance  
Pastoral Care in schools – Child Protection- circular1999/ 10.

We are in the unique position of being trusted by the children. The children know and feel that they are in a loving and caring environment. They recognise that they are respected and have a great deal of self worth.

In our school the children are encouraged to talk openly to all teachers and staff. This creates a particular suitable climate where our children can talk freely about their concerns and fears to any member of the adult school community.

We recognise that;

- Each person is a unique creation of God and worthy of respect

- Pastoral care is for all members of the school community and not just for those with particular problems
- Each member of the school community pupil, teacher, parent, Chaplin, ancillary staff and fundamentally the Board of Governors have a responsibility for the caring life of the school
- Pastoral care permeates the whole life of the school, intellectual, social, physical, moral development and religious beliefs.
- Pastoral care is not imposed but is a loving response to the discerned needs of those with whom we make contact
- It avails of the support and expertise provided by statutory and voluntary bodies in the wider community
- Appropriate resources and training are essential to implement the pastoral care programme
- The pastoral care policy takes account of the special needs programme within the school
- Our Pastoral Care Programme needs to be regularly reviewed and evaluated by teachers, ancillary staff and agreed by the Board of Governors.

A copy of the school's 'Child Protection Policy / procedure' is regularly issued to parents.

All staff are vetted and trained in line with requirements and we have adopted a Code of Practice for our behaviour towards the children.

The school's Designated Teacher for child protection is Mrs Sinead Donnelly and the Deputy Designated Teacher for child protection is Mrs Karen McElroy.

The Pastoral Care System is reflected and permeates throughout the all our policies including:

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy,  
 Code of Conduct Policy  
 Health and Safety Policy  
 Safe use of the Internet and Mobile Phone policy  
 Promoting Positive Behaviour  
 Anti Bullying Policy  
 Data Protection Policy  
 Intimate Care  
 Drugs Awareness Policy  
 Safe Handling Policy  
 Complaints Policy  
 Including every aspect of the school curriculum and any other extracurricular activities

(Copies of these policies are available on request from the school office and are in the process of being uploaded to our new website)

In the event that you have a child protection concern about your child or any other child, we would ask you to refer to the flow chart, which has been issued with the Child Protection document. For further advice please contact the principal or any of the named teachers.

### **Religious Education of Pupils.**

*'The Christian vision of education is based on love, solidarity, truth and justice.....  
The goal of Catholic education is the formation and development of young people as communal beings living in harmonious relationships with self, others, God and the environment.'*

### **Proclaiming the Mission**

As a Catholic school, we place great importance on the overall development of pupils including their spiritual and faith development. We respect parents as the 'First Educators' of their children therefore we work in partnership with parents and with the parish community to compliment and support the task of faith development. The staff of New Row work alongside our school Chaplin, Fr Mc Anerney and the wider parish community to make the idea of a 'Worshipping Community' a reality. Daily prayer, Sacramental preparation, school Masses, and twice weekly school assemblies etc are just some of the ways in which the 'Catholic Ethos' of the school manifests itself.

We want to see the child and family as part of the schools community which in turn forms the part of the wider parish community and beyond. We are inclusive of all races and traditions and wish to continue the excellent relationships, which we have established with all sections of our community.

### **Home school contacts**

Parents are welcome in school at all times but appointments to speak with teachers must be made by appointment. All parents are contacted regularly by way of our Monday note and our text messaging service and at any particular time when it is important to relay important events or messages.

A yearly programme of important dates will be issued early in the school year highlighting forthcoming events and holidays.

A schedule for parent interviews will normally take place twice yearly, i.e. early in the first term, to talk about the curriculum targets set for your child throughout the year and in the middle of the second term to discuss your child's progress.

Regular contact with parents is also maintained by our 'Parents Notice Board.'

An Annual Report is issued to all parents at the end of term three.

## **Health and safety**

The safety and welfare of your child is taken very seriously in New Row. Accident procedures have been drawn up and are reviewed regularly. In the unfortunate event of your child sustaining an injury, we will contact you by phone or if this is not possible we will arrange for emergency medical treatment and inform you later by telephone. All accidents are recorded in the accident Report book. In the interest of health and safety we recommend that children are not on the school premises before 9 o'clock in the morning.

We encourage healthy eating in school and healthy breaks and lunches for all children. All crisps, bars and fizzy drinks are not permitted in school and it is also important to remember that **nuts or foods containing nuts are forbidden in school** as one child has a severe nut allergy.

All parents are encouraged to avail of milk which can be ordered in advance.

**Please let us know if your child has a medical condition or disability which may requires extra provision.**

## **Attendance**

Good attendance is absolutely vital if your child is to make progress consistent with their abilities. In the event that your child is absent from school for any reason, please inform the class teacher explaining their absence.

If your child has a chronic health problem, which results in irregular attendance, the school should be provided with an explanation or a medical note. The schools and Educational Welfare Officer monitor individual pupil attendance.

It is also important to remember that children should not be taken out of school for appointments unless absolutely necessary.

We in New Row actively promote good attendance by rewarding high pupil attendance with certificates on Prize Giving Day.

## **Discipline**

New Row primary expects high standards of behaviour from all the pupils Rules are kept to a minimum and are regularly discussed with pupils. Praise is used to promote the idea of a happy, hardworking school premised on the principles of honesty and mutual respect.

Copies of the schools discipline policy are available on request from the school office.

The school has also formulated a series of strategies to counter bullying in line with Article 3 of the Education Order 1998.

These include anti bullying advice for parents and children and a suggestion box / worry box which encourages children to come forward if they have a concern. Children are frequently reminded to approach a member of staff for help and advice at any time when they have concerns.

Parents who may have concerns about their children can contact the principal to arrange a meeting to discuss any issues which arise.

### **Pastoral Care Programmes**

New Row Primary School promotes the welfare of the individual children through a number of programmes. These include Circle Time sessions in all classes and targeted year group programmes in areas such as

Road Safety,  
Fire Safety,  
Drugs Education,  
Fit for Life,  
Healthy Eating,  
Internet Safety,  
Bee Safe,  
Cycling Proficiency,  
Heart Start,  
Sex Education for P7,  
NSPCC visits Bi Annually  
PDMU lessons etc.

### **School /Parish/ Community links**

New Row views itself as a Parish, community school and as such draws on resources of the wider community to support and assist the children in our care. We work closely with Magherafelt parish and in our local St Patricks Church the school assists at church services when appropriate. We work in close conjunction with St Malachy's GAC to promote Gaelic games and culture and we use their facilities for Sports Day and to host matches. The facilities of Moyola Football Club, which are within walking distance from the school are used every Friday for all P4 to P7 children Sporting and physical activities including camogie, hurling, rounders and gaelic football. We are supported by Ulster Council GAA and all KS1 children receive weekly training in Fundamentals. Derry GAA also supports us with training in football hurling and camogie. In school tuition is also available from the Music Service and children are able to learn violin and flute during weekly lessons.

We have close alliance with the Lower Castledawson Community Association during Christmas Celebrations, use of their garden plot by P3 children and also use of the recent outdoor play facilities.

We are continuously working in close liaison with Castledawson Controlled Primary School and have recently started a programme of work together as part of the Shared Education initiative. This started 2015/16 with our Key Stage 2 classes coming together for a series of lessons and activities related to *World Around Us* topic work. It will be extended to Key Stage 1 classes in the next academic year.

The local Post primary schools including St Mary's and St Pius X Magherafelt have continually supported us in our curriculum links for science days, Bio Diversity days, Outdoor Science Days, creative workshops. We are also involved in a Key Stage 2 and 3 literacy and numeracy with St Pius X Magherafelt. We also have Induction/Transfer Days with St Pat's Maghera and St Mary's and St PiusX Magherafelt.

We also compete annually in St Pat's Maghera tournament for football/ camogie/ hurling.

We compete in the Festival of Camogie and Hurling organised by Owenbeg and the annual South Derry Schools Championships in football, camogie, hurling, including the Sharon Donnelly girls' football. We also compete in the rounders and track and field events organised by South Derry Schools.

As a recommendation from the ETI , *Together Towards Improvement* we as a teaching staff have close working relationships with our neighbouring primary schools Holy Family, Anahorish, St Trea's and St Mary's Bellaghy to liaise and consult on Assessment, benchmarking and Special Educational needs issues and the tracking of pupils.

### **Complaints**

We have an established complaints procedure which, if required, can be obtained from the school office. Complaints are dealt with professionally and with the minimum of fuss. We also welcome suggestions from parents on how we might improve the quality of our Pastoral Care and other provision in our school.

All the staff of New Row are very committed to meeting the pastoral needs of your child. We seek to work in partnership with parents and the wider community to achieve this aim. We want our school to be a happy place with a friendly, professional atmosphere where your child will feel valued and special. If you require any further information on any aspect of this leaflet please contact the school on 02879468426.