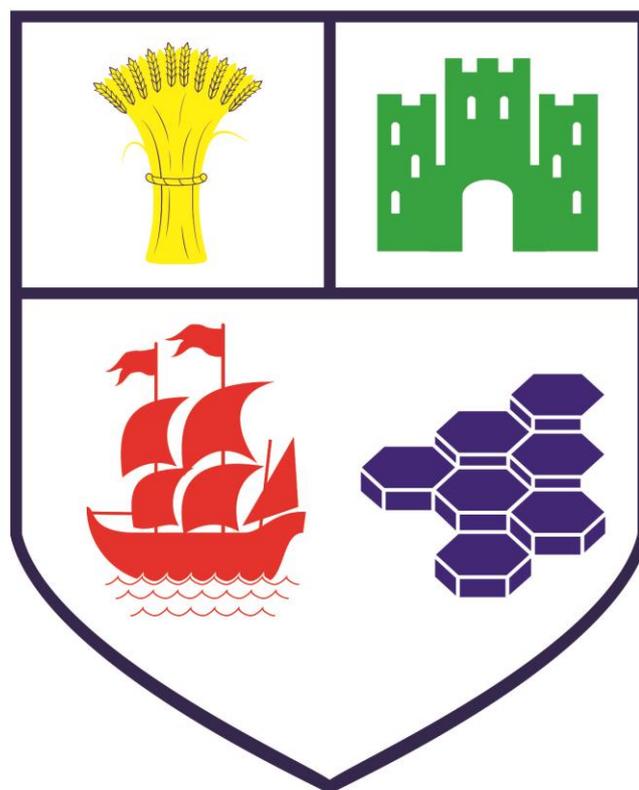


# Dunseverick Primary School



## Pastoral Care Policy

**This policy was reviewed & adopted by the BOG**

**November 2022**

**Signed by the Principal**

**Signed by the Chair of the BOG**

**Review Date**

**November 2024**

# **PASTORAL CARE POLICY**

## **WHY PASTORAL CARE?**

Dunseverick Primary School considers it of paramount importance to implement a pastoral care policy due to the increasing pressures and influences facing our young people today. These pressures and influences stem from the effect of growing up in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the changing home backgrounds of our pupils, lack of family stability, increase in child abuse and the difficulties facing parents in raising children. By providing a caring environment, we feel that learning opportunities will be maximised. This document is based on Every School a Good School (DENI 2009) and sets out our school's policy and practice in relation to the care of pupils and the promotion of a safe and happy environment. Pastoral Care is holistic in that it runs through all aspects of school life - Child centred provision, High quality teaching and learning, Effective Leadership and A school connected to its local community.

## **WHAT IS PASTORAL CARE?**

We at Dunseverick School define Pastoral Care as a set of systems and programmes in our school which attempts to meet the total needs of all the pupils in our care. Our Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator is Mrs Z. Scott

## **AIMS**

Therefore to fulfil this definition of Pastoral Care, we at Dunseverick Primary School aim to: -

- provide every pupil with the opportunity in a safe environment to reach his/her potential in every area of his/her life.
- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of all pupils in our care.
- help children to learn to respect and value themselves and others and to appreciate their environment.
- develop personal qualities such as self-confidence, independence and self-discipline and assertiveness.
- prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- promote close links between home, school and community.
- be vigilant and sensitive to unhappy, preoccupied, irritable and depressed children and to investigate unobtrusively.
- make them aware of procedures when they feel threatened relating to our Safeguarding Policy.

## **ETHOS**

We will endeavour to ensure that the atmosphere in our school creates a safe, happy, caring environment where everyone feels valued and each child is helped to develop his/her own individual potential to the full.

Such an ethos is achieved by, 'Principal and Staff promoting and facilitating an atmosphere of care and respect with the formal and informal life of the school community.'

We will take heed of the following advice!

Pastoral Care is recognised as being the school ethos in action.

Pastoral Care is not a subject area delivered by specialist teachers. However, a tutor is a teacher whose subject is the pupil.

## **VALUES**

As part of our school ethos we will communicate Christian values and beliefs to the children in our care. These will include honesty, respect for others, their belongings and their environment, good manners,

helpfulness, kindness, thoughtfulness, a conscientious attitude, good behaviour, self-discipline, fair-mindedness and co-operation.

### **SELF ESTEEM**

At Dunseverick Primary School we will endeavour to promote each child's self esteem and encourage them to be assertive, whilst remaining sensitive to the beliefs of others.

Encouragement and praise with regard to their work will be achieved through positive marking and presentation of pupils' work in attractive and stimulating displays and by publishing their work on our school website.

### **PERSONAL SAFETY**

As a school we will endeavour to provide a healthy and safe environment in line with the NEELB's Health and Safety policy.

We will encourage each child to take responsibility for his/her safety by making them aware of how to say no to people when they are afraid or unhappy.

- Knowing where to get help
- Recognising dangerous situations
- Safety in the water, on the road, in the sun etc.
- Fire Drill (once per term)

### **IMPLEMENTATIONS**

The Board of Governors, SMT and Pastoral Care Co-ordinator are collectively responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of our Pastoral Care Policy and Procedures within our school.

It is the responsibility of all staff, both teaching and non-teaching to promote pupils' self-esteem and self-assertiveness in the hope that they will have the courage to resist negative peer pressure. This will be done through praise and encouragement as opposed to sarcasm, belittlement and humiliation.

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The effectiveness of our Pastoral Care Policy in action is monitored through our Discipline Policy and school motto.

### **STAFF TRAINING**

In-house training has taken place as and when required to update all staff.

Any other training as required by NEELB.

Safeguarding Child Protection Team complete NEELB Child Protection training as required and our Board Of Governors have completed Child Protection Training.

All staff receive Safeguarding training on an annual basis.

### **RESOURCING**

We continue to acquire resources through the Revised Curriculum and other curriculum areas as appropriate.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

At Dunseverick Primary School we aim to provide a varied range of extra-curricular activities. Our children are also encouraged to take part in various sporting tournaments. Support from PSNI, Fire Authorities, Action Renewables and other agencies permeate our Pastoral Care implementation. An Eco-Committee is elected on an annual basis to be responsible for environmental work that is undertaken.

## **SUPERVISION**

Teacher supervision is provided from 8.00am – 8.40am for children attending breakfast club and from 8.40a.m. – 9.00 a.m. in the playground. Dining Hall supervision is provided by ancillary staff and teachers remain with children eating packed lunches in the classrooms.

Supervision is provided during inclement weather by a mixture of teaching staff and ancillary staff, with pupils remaining in their classrooms. At 2.00p.m and 3.00p.m. children only proceed to the school gate, when staff accompany them.

Children are supervised in the corridor at all times by staff, as they proceed to and from the assembly hall and playground.

## **PUPIL INDUCTION**

An induction afternoon for prospective P1 pupils and their parents is held in the summer term. Children are also given an opportunity to meet their P1 Teacher and the Classroom Assistant.

## **RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS**

Admissions Criteria

Anti-Bullying Policy

Code of Conduct for Staff Members

Drugs Policy

Discipline Policy

First Aid and Child Safeguarding Noticeboard

Health and Safety Policy

Healthy Break Policy

Intimate Care Policy

PDMU Policy

Prescribed Medication Policy

Policy for the Acceptable Use of the Internet

Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy

Safe Handling and the Use of Reasonable Force with Children

Safeguarding Policy

School Development Plan

Smoke Free Policy

Special Educational Needs Policy

**RELATED PASTORAL ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES 2023 – 2024**

Name	Role/Responsibility
Mrs Smyth (Principal)	Child Protection Safeguarding Team Member Assessment Co-Ordinator
Mrs Scott	Designated Teacher for Child Protection Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator SENCO
Mrs Taggart	Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection
All Staff	First Aiders