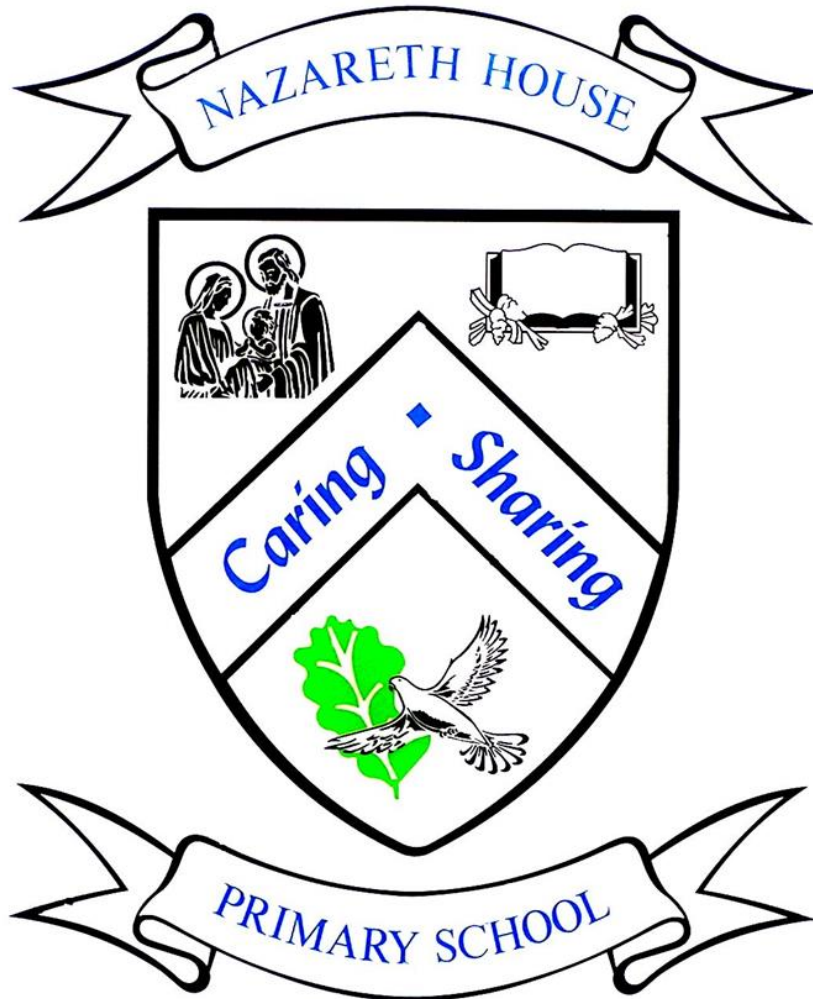


Nazareth House Primary School



Pastoral Care Policy

Signed: _____ (Board of Governors)

Signed: _____ (Principal)

Date: _____

Pastoral Care Policy

Mission Statement

Nazareth House Primary School is a Catholic school, committed to upholding the legitimate rights of children, teachers and parents. The staff will aim, at all times, to create a safe climate so that learning and teaching can occur within relationships of mutual valuing and respect. We believe education should provide for and equip children with skills and values necessary to make a positive contribution in a changing world. Nazareth House Primary School hopes to create an atmosphere where children feel self-motivated and are at peace with themselves, others and the world. To achieve these aspirations, the school requires the help, commitment and co-operation of children, parents, staff, governors and the wider community.

We, at Nazareth House Primary School, endeavour to model ourselves on the Holy Family of Nazareth. We therefore consider that caring for the children in our school, their families and for each other, to be of paramount importance. Teachers, non-teaching staff and other adults are all part of our team. This team wants to ensure pupils are happy and secure in whatever activity they are taking part in, whether social, spiritual, mental, emotional or physical. Our care is reflected in the following policies...

- Child Protection
- Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying
- Emotional Health & Well-being
- Intimate Care
- First Aid and the Administration of Medication
- Health & Safety
- Relationships & Sexuality Education
- Use of Mobile Phones
- Nutrition
- ICT and access to the Internet
- Use of Reasonable Force/Safe Handling
- Special Educational Needs
- Inclusion
- Educational Visits

Aims

Through our Pastoral Care Policy we aim ...

- To create and maintain an atmosphere where pupils feel they are well known, safe, valued, respected and happy
- To welcome, respect and cherish those of diverse identities
- To become highly motivated life-long learners
- To maintain the highest standards of teaching and learning
- To respond in a sympathetic way to the concerns, fears and worries of our pupils.
- To build an atmosphere of trust
- To make children aware of potential dangers through the teaching of Health Education and other subjects e.g. road and water safety - care in the sun.

1. Ethos

The ethos of the school will be reflected in the moral, intellectual, personal and social development of our pupils. It does not come about by chance. It is achieved by the Principal, School Management Team and staff promoting and facilitating an atmosphere of care and respect within the formal and informal life of the school community.

2. Relationships

A good relationship between pupils and staff is paramount to generating a positive climate within the school community where every individual feels valued and cared for at all times. Good relationships will be nurtured between:

- Staff and pupils
- Pupils and their peers
- Members of staff
- School management team and staff
- School and Parents
- School and Parish
- School and Local Community
- School and Governors
- School and External agencies.

Children will also be encouraged to develop and value a respect for themselves.

Values

The teacher should share his/her values and beliefs with the children and not only his/her knowledge. Life skills are central to the ethos of the school.

Self-Esteem

We believe that self-esteem and respect are central to the development of the whole child and promotes learning.

Personal Safety

We will encourage children to be responsible for their own personal safety and help them to acquire skills to be able to do this so that they will be able to make the correct decisions and know where to get help if or when they are confronted with danger. The whole school community will be aware of the Designated Teacher (Mrs Shauna Molloy-O'Dowd) and the Deputy Designated Teacher (Mrs Donna Hartop) who will be responsible for dealing with cases of Child Protection issues which come to light. They will also be aware of the members of staff who are responsible for First Aid and what the procedures are for dealing with children who need First Aid. Children will be able to speak to their class teacher if they need help or are concerned.

Implementation

1. Roles and Responsibilities

Our Board of Governors will have overall responsibility for the implementation of the curriculum including monitoring the safety of each child in the school. The School Management Team will ensure that Pastoral Care is given a high profile in the School Development Plan and will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Pastoral Care Policy. They will work with all staff to ensure teaching resources are kept up to date and that staff are properly trained. They will make sure that the non-teaching staff are familiar with the Pastoral Care Policy and give help, when needed. Each member of staff will work to build up pupils' self-esteem and encourage them to be assertive and to resist negative peer pressure. They will help them to celebrate success and develop the ability to make moral decisions and to know the difference between right and wrong.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation

Parents are always welcome and are encouraged to contact their child's teacher, Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher or the Principal if they have any concerns or worries regarding their child. Appointments can be arranged by contacting the school secretary although urgent concerns will be given immediate attention. We will encourage parents to share concerns about home circumstances or medical matters which may affect their child's work or behaviour in school. Any information disclosed will be treated as confidential. The opinions of parents will be valued and, where appropriate, action will be taken. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of each member of staff and its effectiveness and implementation will be regularly monitored and reviewed. The Pastoral Care Policy will be reviewed annually.

3. Training

Training of both teaching and non-teaching staff will be led by School Management Team.

4. Resources

Resources required to maintain and update the Pastoral Care Policy will be updated as necessary.

5. Range of Pastoral Activities

Children will be supervised from 9.00 a.m. Children may choose to come to Breakfast Club which begins at 8.30 a.m. Adequate supervision will be provided during educational and non-educational trips and where applicable, vetted staff only will be used. Children will be informed of pastoral issues through the delivery of the Revised Curriculum, PDMU, Circle Time and related activities in class, as well as through assemblies and visits to the school by the NSPCC, Fire Service, local clergy and other visitors. No child may remain in the classrooms, toilet areas or other areas of the building during break time or lunch time without adult supervision. Children may not enter the building at break time or lunch time without the permission of the teachers, supervisory assistants or learning support assistants. Pastoral Care is a shared responsibility for all staff and is promoted in all areas of teaching and learning and in all aspects of school life.

Conclusion

The evaluation of the schools system of Pastoral Care is effective when the school policy and planning for Pastoral Care are fully implemented and reflected in the quality of provision within and beyond the classroom and the effectiveness of the support arrangements for individual pupils.

At all levels of the caring process all staff and pupils need to feel valued, safe and secure.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Nazareth House Primary School will update this policy and procedures in the light of any further guidance and legislation as necessary and review it annually. On-going evaluation will ensure the effectiveness of the policy.