

FRIENDS' SCHOOL LISBURN



PASTORAL CARE POLICY

1 Friends' School seeks to provide an environment in which pupils, staff and parents are committed to the idea of excellence within a caring, supportive community. The Pastoral Care Policy of Friends' School is in sympathy with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends, which values individuals as of equal standing before God.

2 The Aims of Pastoral Care are:

- To support the academic, social and personal well-being and development of all pupils
- To create a caring, secure and supportive atmosphere for all members of the School community
- To value all members of the School community as individuals of equal worth
- To encourage pupils and staff to value Friends' School as a community to which each individual can make a unique and valued contribution
- To prepare pupils for the challenges of adult and working life

3 The Aim of the **Pastoral Care Policy** is to provide a common framework for good practice in pastoral care within School. The Board of Governors, the Principal and the Vice Principal Pastoral have primary responsibility for the care and welfare of pupils; and all staff within the School community have a responsibility to promote the good practice as defined within this Policy.

The management arrangements within School enable all staff to contribute effectively to establishing and maintaining a climate which is characterised by a commitment to care, open communication, relationships of trust, co-operation and good sense.

Good practice is characterised by the following:

- Pupils have 'open access' to all staff, Vice Principals and the Principal
- There are three Pastoral Heads of School: Junior School, Middle School and Senior School, who report directly to Vice Principal Pastoral

- There are two Year Teachers for each group who, assisted by five Collect Teachers, have overall responsibility for the personal, social and academic development of the pupils in their charge. Year Teachers report directly to Heads of School
- There is continuity of care from Year 8 to Year 14
- The Designated Teacher and Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection are members of the Leadership Team (Vice Principal Pastoral/Head of School Pastoral)
- Within the classroom, the subject teacher seeks to foster self esteem in pupils, to promote a sense of self-motivation and achievement and to allow pupils to explore their own attitudes and values within a supportive, non-threatening atmosphere
- Beyond the classroom, good practice is promoted by staff in the provision of extra-curricular activities, both sporting and non-sporting, and in a variety of field trips and school visits
- School places emphasis on inclusive relationships based on mutual respect and care and consideration for others
- The School places emphasis on the importance of service to others
- Morning Assembly and Year group Assemblies address personal, social and moral issues within a broadly Christian framework and pupil involvement is encouraged
- The Learning for Life and Work programme, with its contributory strands of Citizenship, Employability and Personal Development, is designed to promote personal and social development in keeping with the aims of Pastoral Care
- The achievements of individuals and groups of pupils, inside and outside School, are given appropriate recognition
- Prefects and pupil Mentors have particular responsibilities in leading the pupil body
- School Council promotes a communal ethos and encourages pupils to communicate, consult and participate in decision making
- The School works in partnership with parents. Parents are encouraged to contact the School at any time. Parents' Evenings are held each year for all year groups and there are also Advice Evenings as appropriate
- Parents are invited to contribute to the life of the School through the PTA and by their representation on the Board of Governors. The expertise and support of parents is also welcomed in areas such as sport, Careers and Learning for Life and Work
- School employs a Nurse to provide medical support for pupils

- School employs two Counsellors from Contact Youth and the Family Coaching Consultancy to provide counselling support for pupils
- School has access to appropriate specialist external agencies through the South Eastern Education and Library Board and the Down and Lisburn Trust to provide Specialist support for pupils
- The School is a member of NAPCE

4 The Vice Principal Pastoral, Miss L Heggarty has responsibility for the evaluation of the Pastoral Care Policy in School

The aims of the Pastoral Care policy underpin the following policies:

- Acceptable Use of Mobile Telephones
- Acceptable Use of the Internet
- Anti-Bullying
- Behaviour
- Child Protection
- Contact with Children - Code of Conduct
- Drugs
- Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle
- Special Educational Needs

These policies are kept under review in order to reflect continuing concern for the personal and social development of all pupils, as individuals and as secure, successful and fully participating members of Friends' School and its wider community.

Revised November 2007