

FRIENDS' SCHOOL LISBURN

Preparatory Department



Pastoral Care Policy

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' Preparatory School is in sympathy with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends, which values individuals as of equal standing before God.

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

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 Head of Department 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, Head of Department and the Principal
- Each class teacher reports directly to the Head of Department (Pastoral)
- There is one class teacher per year group who has responsibility for the personal, social and academic development of the pupils in their charge.
- There is continuity of care from Pre Prep to Prep 7
- The Designated Teacher and Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection are members of the Leadership Team.
- Within the classroom, the 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
- School places emphasis on the importance of service to others

- 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
- There are playground buddies and house captains who 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 external Counsellors to provide counselling support for pupils
- School has access to appropriate specialist external agencies through the Education Authority (South Eastern Region) and the Down and Lisburn Trust to provide specialist support for pupils
- School is a member of NAPCE

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/Safeguarding
- Contact with Children - Code of Conduct
- Drugs
- Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle
- Relationships and Sexuality
- 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.