

## PASTORAL CARE STATEMENT.

### **Aim.**

- To safeguard and protect the rights of staff, pupils, parents/guardians and all who visit our school.

All members of the school community have a right to be treated with respect and to work in a safe environment. Teachers have a right to teach, pupils have a right to be taught, parents and visitors have a right to be shown respect and courtesy. Behaviour that interferes with the rights of another is unacceptable.

### **Implementation:**

The climate in our school is one of trust, respect, concern, support, welcome, understanding and acceptance where learning and teaching are enjoyed.

Children's innate love of learning is nurtured. In line with the school's Mission Statement we help our children to acquire knowledge, skills and practical abilities and the desire to use them. We hope to instil self esteem and confidence in our pupils. We recognise differing abilities, strengths, weaknesses, needs and learning styles and every effort is made to help children reach their full potential. Success is relative but in their own way we ensure that every child tastes success regularly.

We celebrate difference and nurture tolerance and respect for all. While each person is unique, we respect all children irrespective of race, special needs, culture or religion and afford equal opportunities to be full participants in all aspects of school life where possible.

Cultural identity and an appreciation of the diversity of these cultures and traditions should be embraced. Irish is our native language and we encourage the speaking of Irish as frequently as possible. Children from other countries are welcome to share their traditions, language, music and dance with the school community.

Teachers are respected and supported in their daily role as educators. They are encouraged to use their talents and skills to enhance learning. The Board of Management recognises the importance of and supports the professional development of the staff. Equally important is the care and support of the staff on a personal level. And management is committed to providing support and help to staff when necessary.

The school's policies on enrolment, discipline, anti-bullying and health & safety are implemented fairly for the benefit of all. This is done consistently and pupils are taught proper standards of care and behaviour that are acceptable within the school.

Sensitivity and confidentiality are key elements of our Pastoral Care. We encourage the children to trust teachers and to be open about their concerns. Similarly all staff are afforded the dignity of confidential and sensitive support whenever necessary. Early identification of pupils with specific needs (emotional, behavioural and/or academic) means that issues are addressed as soon as possible with a view to maximising support. The available resources- human and physical, within the school are used to support these pupils and their parents/guardians.

Prayer is a central part of the daily school routine and the class atmosphere reflects a prayerful and respectful community. Forgiveness and openness is fostered among all pupils and an understanding of God's love for us all is constantly underpinned and developed in the children. This does not in any way compromise the core Catholic values that we uphold and foster, but indeed enhances the central truth of our faith which is tolerance.

The school's motto 'Respect' is at the core of our Pastoral Care Policy.