

PASTORAL CARE POLICY BOHERBUE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Mission Statement:

Boherbue Comprehensive School by virtue of its position in the community endeavours to give the best education and service to its pupils and community, based on Christian values that will help all who come into contact with the school to reach their full potential.

Rationale:

1. To fulfil the legal requirements of the Education Act.
2. To complement the School Mission Statement.

Definition:

Pastoral Care can be defined as the created school ethos through which our pupils develop and learn to their full potential in a safe environment, where they may build healthy self-esteem, confidence and social skills as they develop into responsible, self-aware, confident, and capable young people equipped to cope with the challenges of the 21st century. The school strives to develop learners who in adulthood will make a meaningful and moral contribution to society. Pastoral Care involves a set of systems, procedures and programmes which attempt to meet the needs of our students so that each child has the opportunity to reach his/her potential, and is equipped with the skills to cope with life.

The Role of Pastoral Care in the Curriculum:

Boherbue Comprehensive School is concerned with promoting students' personal, social, moral, intellectual, spiritual and cultural development and fostering positive attitudes; through the quality of teaching and learning; through the nature of relationships amongst students, teachers, parents and other adults in the school; through arrangements for monitoring students' overall progress, academic, personal and social; through specific pastoral structures and support systems; and through extra-curricular activities. Pastoral Care forms the basis of, and permeates, all aspects of the curriculum.

The Aims of the Pastoral Care Policy:

The following aims of the Pastoral Care Policy are promoted by all members of staff and through the School Community:

- To support the academic, social and personal well-being and development of students thereby promoting development of the whole person.
- To foster each student's particular talents and potential so that they become empowered to meet the demands and challenges of adult and working life with confidence.
- To encourage pupils and staff to see Boherbue Comprehensive School as a community in which each individual can make a unique and valued contribution.
- To create a well ordered, structured, caring, secure and supportive school environment, which values all students equally regardless of academic ability.
- To deliver a Pastoral Care programme which allows for a fair and equitable exchange of views / ideas / attitudes, etc. in an atmosphere of trust.
- To implement a Code of Behaviour which creates a full sense of justice and fair play amongst our school community.
- To provide opportunities for each person to succeed and to be affirmed in their self-worth.
- To establish and maintain links with the wider community.
- To encourage tolerance, understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others.
- To promote warm and positive relationships between students, staff and parents for the mutual benefit of all.

Pastoral Care Programmes and Procedures:

Boherbue Comprehensive School has a range of programmes and procedures in place in order to facilitate the realisation of the above aims:

- Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.) is a core area of school life and its link to pastoral care is clear. The Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.) programme is designed to promote personal and social development in keeping with the aims of the Pastoral Care Policy, as does Careers Education and Guidance and the Civic, Social and Political Education (C.S.P.E.) programme. The school has a commitment to SPHE, CSPE and Career Guidance and demonstrates this in curriculum provision as set out in Department of Education and Science guidelines.
- Each year group has a Year Head, who, assisted by the subject teachers, has overall responsibility for the personal, social and academic development of the pupils in his / her charge.
- 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, the aims of the Pastoral Care Policy are developed by staff in the provision of extra-curricular activities, both sporting and non-sporting, and in a variety of field trips and school visits.
- Access to library; internet; Extra Curricular: games room / pool table; gym; Football / Hurling / Soccer / Ladies Football / Camogie Training.
- Visiting Speakers, e.g. Nurse; Drugs Talk; ACCORD; Study Skills; Anti-Bullying speakers; Theatre Groups; AWARE; Sexual Health; CURA; Samaritans, Al-anon; A.A.
- The Awards Night recognises the achievements of individuals and groups of pupils within the school.
- The School works in partnership with parents. Parents are encouraged to contact the school at any time. Parent Teacher Meetings are held for all year groups and there are also Subject choice Information Evenings as appropriate.
- Parents are invited to contribute to the life of the School through the Parent's Council and by their representation on the Board of Management.
- In order to provide support to all pupils, the School has access to appropriate specialist external agencies, e.g. – Department of Education and Science (D.E.S.); Health Services Executive (H.S.E.); the National Educational Welfare Board (N.E.W.B.); National Educational Psychological Service (N.E.P.S.).
- Open Night for incoming parents / students and Induction Pack for First Years followed by Induction Night.
- Information meetings for First, Second, Third, Transition, Fourth and Fifth Years.
- Drugs Talk; Anti-Bullying Talks / Workshop; Year Head Talks; Study Skills Talk / Seminar.
- Homework Club and Supervised Study.
- Transition Year Programme.
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (L.C.V.P.)
- Networking with local agencies including I.R.D. Duhallow.
- Counselling.
- Special Needs / Learning Support.
- Home visitation by Home School Community Liaison Co-Ordinator.
- Support services including education support structures that directly enhance the learning within the classroom – through teachers and learning support teachers; Chaplain; Guidance Counsellor; Home School Community Liaison; N.E.P.S. Psychologist; National Educational Welfare Officer and other educational specialists.
- First Year Mass for pupils and parents and staff members.
- Leaving Cert. Graduation Mass.
- Mass for deceased staff members and pupils.
- Masses during Lent.
- Confessions during Advent and Lent.
- Access to sacred space in the Prayer Room.
- Retreats.
- Student Council.

- Leadership / Mentor Training.

Pastoral Policies:

This policy is one of a number of policies which are interlinked and interdependent. The aims of the Pastoral Care Policy underpin all other school policies. It should therefore be read in conjunction with our Mission Statement and other school policies:

- The Whole School Guidance Plan
- Admission Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- SPHE and RSE Policy
- Critical Incidents Policy
- Code of Behaviour and Discipline
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Homework Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Substance Abuse Policy
- Internet Use Policy
- Extra-Curricular.
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Pastoral Care Team:

Principal and Deputy Principal
Year Heads
Guidance Counsellor
Chaplain
Home School Community Liaison Co-Ordinator
Learning Support Teacher

REVIEW

This policy document will be subject to review by the students, parents and Board of Management.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 6th October, 2008.