

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

In accordance with our vision statement Abbey Primary School is a place where everyone experiences a sense of belonging to the school family. We are committed to providing a safe, caring and child-centred community. It is our view that pupils, staff and parents should work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect and support for the benefit of all. We adopt a sympathetic and caring attitude towards all pupils and all adults involved in the life of the school.

Pupils will be encouraged to:

- set and achieve personal, social and academic goals
- participate fully in all areas of school life
- develop self-discipline and the ability to take responsibility for their own actions
- develop an understanding of themselves as individuals - their strengths, attitudes, values and personal qualities
- develop self respect and respect for others
- develop an understanding of the community and the world in which they live

Teachers will:

- § seek to implement the vision statement in their everyday practice
- § develop and review whole school policies to reflect the ethos of the school
- § promote a caring and supportive environment where pupils are provided with learning experiences appropriate to their individual needs and abilities
- § be aware of the pupils' individual backgrounds, experiences, needs and aspirations
- § encourage all pupils to achieve their full potential
- § have opportunities for professional development

Other adults in the school will:

- § seek to implement the vision statement in their everyday practice
- § work in partnership with the teaching staff
- § support the teaching staff in encouraging the pupils to achieve their personal goals
- § be aware of the pupils' individual backgrounds, experiences, needs and aspirations

The pastoral dimension permeates all activities, and therefore requires a caring commitment by everyone in the school community. The implication of this is that the pastoral dimension should be evident in:

- the physical and learning environments
- the school ethos
- interpersonal relationships at all levels
- monitoring and recording procedures

- clubs & societies and extra-curricular activities
- educational visits
- positive discipline procedures which assist pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour
- reward procedures which enhance pupils' self esteem through acknowledgement of their efforts, achievements and contributions to all aspects of school life

The school as a community

The school is a child-centred community where everyone works together for the common good and so:

- pupils will view the school as an extension of their family
- parents will be made welcome in the school and encouraged to feel that their role is important and appreciated
- parents will be encouraged to become involved in many aspects of school life eg accompanying classes on school trips, fundraising, maintaining an interest in their children's work etc
- everyone involved in school life will be encouraged to support and care for each other
- the school will work with statutory agencies involved in the health and welfare of children

The school in the community

As part of the wider community the school will:

- view the wider community as an extension of the learning environment
- continue to have close links with the local churches and other local bodies and organisations
- maintain links with local businesses

The pastoral dimension permeates all areas of school life and therefore:

- children are encouraged to have respect for people in the school and for the school environment
- children are encouraged to assist those who are less able than themselves in all aspects of school life
- children are encouraged to recognise the needs of those less fortunate than themselves and to support them by participating in fundraising events for different charities
- pupils are involved in projects which provide an awareness of environmental issues
- links are maintained with other schools in the community through sporting activities etc

Attitudes to Learning

In order to promote pastoral care in the classroom teachers will:

- adopt a range of teaching strategies that will cater for all learning styles
- encourage children to become active participants in the learning process
- treat each child as an individual
- promote a positive and stimulating environment where children feel confident in participating in new activities
- encourage each child to achieve his/her full potential
- have a positive and fair approach to discipline
- be aware of children's individual circumstances

This policy, which is based on Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection DENI 1997, will be reviewed and updated at regular intervals.