ANTRIM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pastoral Care Policy

Next Review Date: Sept 2030

Pastoral Care Policy

At the heart of our school's ethos is a commitment to the holistic well-being and development of every child. We ensure that every child is safe and supported. Through blending genuine compassion with academic excellence, we have created a supportive environment that influences every aspect of school life.

Rationale

Antrim Primary School provides a safe, happy, and structured environment where every child can reach their full intellectual, social, and physical potential. We maintain high expectations for both achievement and conduct, nurturing these values through a collaborative partnership between staff, parents, and pupils.

Our Ethos

In Antrim PS we aim to ensure a happy, safe and secure environment where mutual respect is nurtured and where each child can develop intellectually and physically to the maximum of his/her potential. We aim to work, in partnership with parents, to deliver high quality teaching and learning and provide pupils with a wide range of experiences and opportunities, both within and beyond the classroom, which will enable them to fully develop their individual talents and abilities. We expect each of our pupils to work hard, behave well and play an active part in school life.

Antrim PS is a happy, inclusive and child-centred school where all members of our school community are valued and they, along with parents and members of the wider community, have an important contribution to make to the life, work and success of our school.

Our Vision

Our vision is to create a happy, safe and child-centred learning environment based on mutual respect. We will deliver inclusive, high-quality teaching and learning to equip children with the confidence and skills for success in the future.

Our Mission Statement

- To create a happy, inclusive and child-centred learning environment where our children feel safe, happy and secure.
- To foster a climate of high expectation for all our children.
- To develop in each child self-confidence, self-esteem and self-respect.
- To provide high quality teaching and learning, responsive to the needs of all our learners.

- To nurture positive home/school partnerships which encourage parental involvement and recognise the importance of working together.
- To develop an awareness of moral, social, religious and cultural values, based on the principles of Christian ethics.
- To respect religious and cultural diversity in a shared society.
- To develop awareness and sensitivity to the needs of both self and others.
- To build positive relationships characterised by kindness, mutual respect and honesty.
- To develop in our children a knowledge and understanding of their role and the impact they can make in our community and beyond.

Pupil Information

A pupil information file commences in P1 and is ongoing to P7. The file includes:

a) Parent application form (personal details)
b) Pre-school experiences
c) Parental consultation records
d) Copies of reports
e) Relevant medical details
f) Involvement of outside agencies

All information is strictly confidential between school and parents.

Medical and Dietary Needs Register

A register of children with medical and dietary needs is compiled and updated annually. This gives the names, class, description of need and relevant action taken or to be taken. It provides the teacher and Principal with immediate, accurate information when required. All information is strictly confidential between school and parents.

Liaison With Current/Next Teacher

To ensure continuity/consistency in meeting the needs of our pupils, teachers in Antrim Primary liaise with the previous teacher. Pupils meet their new teacher before the end of the school year (June). Teachers meet to discuss classes in August and maintain informal contact throughout the year.

Connecting With Our School Community

At Antrim Primary, we take pride in fostering strong relationships with everyone involved in our pupils' lives. We believe that by upholding high standards together, we create the best possible environment for our children to thrive. From our office team and building supervisor to our lunchtime supervisors, cleaning, and catering staff—every member of our team plays an essential and highly valued role in our school family.

Partnership With Parents

Support/partnership of our parents is vital. We value greatly this support/partnership and encourage our parents through:

- Induction Days for P1 children and parents in June
- Open Evening in November
- Parent consultation for P1-P7 in Term 1
- Parent consultations for P1-P6 in Term 2
- P7 Transfer Interviews in February
- P7 Records of Achievement
- Written reports for P1-P7 in Term 3
- Inviting parents to register as voluntary helpers
- Weekly ParentMails and regular social media updates containing general school information, events and achievements.
- Regularly updated school website.
- Contact by phone, texting service or in person when necessary
- Parents always welcome in School – open door policy
- Dedicated PTA who are very actively involved through educational, social and fund-raising activities.

Links With Other Curriculum Areas

We integrate pastoral care into all areas of school life, with a dedicated focus during PDMU, Health and Wellbeing, RE, and PE. These values serve as the foundation for our school policies, including Addressing Bullying, Child Protection and Positive Behaviour, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for every student.

Our Holistic Approach To Care

Every adult in our school community—from our Governors and Principal to our dedicated support staff—contributes to a safe environment where our children can thrive. We have a Designated Teacher and a Deputy who lead all Child Protection and Safeguarding matters.