



Pastoral Care Policy

As in all Community Schools St. Ciarán's has a strong pastoral care policy. This is in keeping with the school mission statement and its focus on the maintenance of an environment within the school where everyone feels valued and respected and where there is support for those with difficulties. The Child Protection, Anti-bullying, Critical Incidents, Guidance and Chaplaincy policies are further evidence of the priority given to the care of students in the school. These policies, combined with the Pastoral Care policy are integral to the internal organisation of the school and ensures that effective pastoral care supports are readily available to all students.

Year Head

The Year Heads and their teams of class tutors play a vital role in the pastoral care of students. Central to the role of the Year Head is the development of a positive relationship with the Year Group and the encouragement of a shared sense of identity among students of the year group. The Year Head in keeping with their role have regular contact with their year group and build up an informed knowledge of students in their charge. In keeping with their pastoral role they acknowledge the achievements of their students and help to resolve disciplinary issues when called upon to do so. The Year Head works with the tutors in organising the tutorial programme each year monitoring attendance and checking student journals. The Social Personal and Health Education programme is supported by the SPHE support group. The SPHE support group provide induction for new teachers and give in-service and practical support to the school's programme.

Tutors

Students are organised into tutorial groups in the Junior Cycle. Each class group has been assigned a tutor and tutors work closely with their Year Head in monitoring and supporting the students in their charge. The class tutors have special responsibility to support the general well-being of the students in their tutorial class. The tutor assists in the personal development of their students by generating a good class spirit and

dealing with issues as they arise. This personal development is also fostered through the delivery of the SPHE programme in first, second and third year. Tutors support the school's positive behaviour policy by encouraging students to act responsibly and have an important role in helping a student who is experiencing difficulty in or out of school. The tutor may refer a student to a Year Head, Chaplain or Guidance Counsellors who all work together to support students in the school.

Designated Pastoral Care Team

St. Ciaran's Community school has a designated core Pastoral Care team. The team has the expressed purpose of supporting individual students who have been identified by staff as having coping problems that are negatively impacting on their own and other students progress in school. The core team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Year Head, Guidance Counsellor, Chaplain and Sen co-ordinator. The team meets weekly and addresses issues related to student difficulties which may be school or home based but which need a coordinated pastoral response from the school.

The teams will plan, evaluate and devise strategies to support students in difficulty. Teaching staff will be told of particular issues relating to a student's wellbeing or personal circumstances. Parents and guardians may be contacted towards solving a particular problem. The students may be recommended for counselling within the school. More complex situations may arise and in these cases the pastoral care team will liaise with the Health Service Executive, Social Workers, the National Education Psychological Service, the medical profession and other community support groups. In these cases the Pastoral Care Team will work closely with the parents/ guardians.

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management of St Ciarán's Community School at its meeting on,

23/1/2018

S.G. Wray

Chairperson
Board of Management

Francis Lafferty

Secretary
Board of Management

Date: 23/1/18

Date: 23/1/2018

Date of next review: January 2020