



Pastoral Care Policy

Pastoral Care involves looking after ourselves and our children and parents. We focus on children's whole development in a positive way, thus enabling them firstly to cope more effectively with their learning in school and secondly to develop skills and attitudes which will enable them to understand themselves and develop relationships with others. This policy should be regarded as an extension of the aims of Kylemore Nursery School and as a preface to our Child Protection and our Discipline policy. In fact Pastoral Care elements may be found in all areas of the curriculum.

Purposes for Pastoral Care Provision

- To support the child's personal needs
- To identify areas and issues which are likely to adversely effect a child's learning and to bring about early intervention
- To facilitate the development of good relationships between staff, other adults and children, children, staff and other children
- To involve parents as positively as possible in the nursery environment
- To contribute to the provision of a climate that will facilitate learning
- To develop effective communication and record systems

Principles for Pastoral Care

ETHOS:

We will strive to create a friendly open environment where positive relationships are given prominence. Staff strengths and interests will be acknowledged and utilised for the benefit of the school. Training courses will be undertaken to further develop each staff member

personally and professionally. Knowledge about issues such as Child Protection, their legal responsibilities and the contents of relevant Department/Education Authority circulars will be shared with all staff members and students. As a follow-up to any training each staff member will be given the opportunity to disseminate new information amongst all staff.

All staff will work together as an effective team to ensure that the children's self confidence is promoted and they are provided with the opportunity to develop as an independent thinker and communicator. Relationships will be developed between staff and children in which the child feels secure and valued as an individual. Children will be encouraged to participate in the full range of activities, both indoors and outdoors, on offer in the nursery school curriculum; these activities will be planned to ensure that children experience a degree of success, challenge where necessary and find school an enjoyable experience. They will be encouraged to work co-operatively towards common objectives. Every opportunity will be taken to praise children for their achievements and their contributions to the life of the school.

Staff will work consistently to promote a positive attitude to behaviour throughout the nursery school, expecting high standards of behaviour. They will build up an understanding and knowledge of each child as an individual and take an interest in their all-round development. Mutual respect and tolerance will be fostered and there will be a positive approach to discipline. The use of rewards and sanctions as detailed in the Child management/discipline policy will be implemented consistently by all members of staff. The approach taken will be fair, firm, consistent and compassionate.

PARENTAL LIAISON:

The school recognises the prime importance of regular effective communication with all parents as a sound basis for Pastoral Care. Parents and visitors to the nursery will be welcomed and made aware of the pastoral care arrangements. Regular newsletters, a Parents'

Noticeboard, the School Prospectus and the Annual report to Parents by the Board of Governors will provide a source of information for all parents about the nursery school, its policy documents, and the curriculum on offer. The school website will be a source of information for parents and the wider community.

Parents will be provided with an opportunity to suggest or make comments in relation to their personal experience within the nursery school. These comments will be brought to the attention of the Governors and any necessary modification of existing provision will be considered.

The needs and interests of the child will be of paramount importance. There will be planned intervention when an issue or problem is affecting the welfare or progress of an individual child. Daily informal conversation at the beginning and end of the session will provide an opportunity for staff to speak to each parent about their child. Where a parent wishes to speak to a member of the teaching staff in relation to their child, an appointment will be arranged at a time that is suitable to both parties and is not disruptive to the normal class routine.

Children's personal social and emotional development will be promoted through the daily curriculum. A wide range of strategies and materials will be used to ensure that a variety of learning styles is catered for.

Formal interviews will be arranged for every parent during the school year. The focus for these interviews will be the progress of the child in terms of personal, social emotional development plus all areas of the NI curriculum for pre-school children as set out in the CCEA Guidance materials. The end of year transition form will be discussed with each parent in term 3 before it is forwarded to the feeder primary school.

A Children's Lending Library for Books and Toys has been set up with equipment from the school and in partnership with Surestart and all

parents are most welcome to use this facility. Questionnaires are provided for each parent in the first and third term to ensure that their views and suggestions are considered. A small Book Lending Library for Adults is also available.

COMMUNITY LINKS:

Members of the caring services – ambulance staff, dental staff, firemen, librarian and police officers will be invited into the nursery to promote curriculum themes relating to the care and welfare of our children.

Our children will be taken on visits out of school to local places of interest and parents will accompany us on these trips.

The nursery school is in the Churchlands ward and belongs to the local Surestart Early Years Forum. Currently the principal attends evening meetings of the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. All opportunities to promote and enhance the provision for our children, staff and parents will be embraced. Parents will be kept informed and asked to volunteer as required.

Links currently being forged with local nursery schools and preschool settings will be strengthened. We will liaise with the staff from local playgroups whose children may be coming to the nursery school. We will also liaise with the primary schools to which our children will transfer. It will continue to be school policy to liaise with other professionals and support staff whose input and advice will enhance the services on offer to the children attending our school.

This policy will be reviewed and evaluated every two years.

Review date: Autumn 2019

Next Review: Autumn 2021

Signed: N Carruthers

Chair of Governors