

St Philip's Catholic Primary School



Pastoral Care Policy

**Spring 2017
Review Spring 2019**

Our Mission Statement

St Philip's is a welcoming community where everyone belongs. With Christ at the centre, we pray together and show our love for God by living the Gospels.

Showing care and compassion for each other, we are kind and sharing; treating each other fairly and with respect. We value everyone as unique children of God.

We create a caring, stimulating environment where everyone feels safe and secure.

We foster a love of learning, embracing challenge and never giving up. With support and encouragement, we learn from our mistakes and always strive to do our utmost.

We find the best in all, nurturing our individual strengths and developing the confidence to allow everyone to reach their potential, preparing ourselves for the journey ahead.

Our Mission Statement recognises the uniqueness of each child and as such it is important that the whole person is educated in terms of information and moral development and thereby assisting progress towards Christian maturity. At St Philip's we approach the care of our children in a positive way, continually reinforcing the philosophy and ethos of the school. We place great emphasis on Pastoral care and the welfare and well being of all members of our community is of paramount importance.

Pastoral Care of Pupils: Aims

- Provide a secure and happy environment in which children develop their self-esteem and sense of self-worth, their self-respect, and their respect for others
- Support and encourage all members of the community, so that they may develop personally, spiritually, morally and socially
- Deliver a curriculum that meets the intellectual, physical and creative needs of each child as well as delivering spiritual, emotional and pastoral care
- Foster a Catholic Christian ethos of caring for God's world
- Foster communication and co-operation between home, school and parish

Pastoral care of Pupils - management

Minor difficulties, worries or upsets involving any child which arise within the classroom or in the playground are dealt with by the class teacher or the member of staff on duty. The child or children concerned are always fully involved in any discussion about an incident or concern and communication between any adults involved is crucial to ensure the best support possible.

Class teachers, when appropriate may address issues through circle time activities.

Concerns over individual children may be referred to the Head teacher or the Pastoral Lead teacher (Inclusion Leader)

If a child has an on going difficulty it may be appropriate to provide individual personal support after consultation with parents. This would typically start with group nurture sessions or possibly 1:1 sessions with the school counsellor. They may also be given a Pastoral Support Plan which includes specific targets agreed by the child, parents and school.

In some instances the Circle of Friends programme or other group support may be provided. This will be delivered by a trained TA in consultation with the class teacher and overseen by the Inclusion Lead.

More serious incidents or concerns about a child's behaviour, health or welfare may be referred to outside agencies with parental consent. This includes the Child and Adult Mental Health Service (CAMHS) which can offer support to the whole family.

Parents are always welcomed and encouraged to contact their child's Class Teacher if they have any concerns or worries. We encourage parents to share concerns about home circumstances or medical matters which may affect their child's work or

behaviour in school. Any discussions are held in confidence if desired or necessary.

Our parish priest regularly visits the school and is also available to offer support and advice if called upon to do so.

All our children are encouraged to talk freely and openly to any member of staff if they have any worries or problems of any kind. Staff respond to children in a sympathetic and concerned way, offering advice, support, guidance and reassurance, in confidence if required but mindful of Child Protection requirements. The children are able to use the class 'Worry Boxes' to flag up concerns with their teacher.

Our school places strong emphasis on the individuality of every person and the children are encouraged to be positive and supportive in their approach to people who may seem 'different' through a disability or by their physical appearance.

Through the EPR curriculum the children have opportunities to develop their understanding of differences.

We also maintain a very close working relationship with the School Nurse and the Educational Psychologist allocated to the school by the Local Authority.

The school nurse visits regularly throughout the school year to liaise with staff and provide children with regular vision, hearing and health checks to monitor their development.

Signposting is available for parents to gain support from other agencies via the Family Information Service (FIS).

EPR/ PSED

EPR (Education in Personal Relationships) and Personal, Social and Emotional development (PSED) at St. Philip's includes all aspects of SEAL (Social & Emotional Aspects of Learning), PSHE (Personal Social & Health Education), and Citizenship. We follow the Diocesan Scheme of Work.

Aims and objectives

It is recognised that the development of the pastoral life of the school is built in large part on the curriculum. The children are equipped to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society through every interaction they have while in school. They are also taught to be caring and resilient.

Pastoral Care Groups

On Wednesday mornings the school is organised into Pastoral Care groups. These are vertically mixed in age and include family siblings. During Pastoral Care time children will address PSHE, EPR and citizenship issues. There is also time for more extended activities during Focus Weeks e.g. RE / Pastoral Care week and Anti-Bullying week.

The Pastoral Care of Staff

The staff are the school's most important resource. We believe it is essential to promote staff well-being in order for them to be able to carry out their own duty of care for the children at St. Philip's.

Consideration will be given to the welfare of all staff and ensuring a manageable workload. Staff will receive training to carry out their roles in the school. When an individual member of staff has pastoral issues, these will be discussed sympathetically. Staff will have opportunities in the year to discuss pastoral matters with their line manager as part of their appraisal cycle.

