

OMAGH ACADEMY



Pastoral Care Policy

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

Summary	Guidance for all stakeholders regarding the ethos and values of the school which underpin pastoral provision; how the school will provide for the pastoral care of pupils; the roles and responsibilities of staff in delivering pastoral care.
Purpose	To outline how the school will deliver pastoral care.
Author	Vice Principal Pastoral
Date of Approval	April 2023
Approved by	Board of Governors
Frequency of review	Every 3 years
Next review date	April 2026

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairperson, Board of Governors)

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Definition

Pastoral care is understood to be caring for pupils as whole individuals with intellectual, emotional, social, physical, and spiritual needs. The provision of high-quality pastoral care is central to the ethos of the school.

Aims

Through our pastoral care policy, we aim:

- To create and maintain an atmosphere where pupils feel they are safe, valued, well-known, respected, and happy.
- To create a harmonious and dynamic learning environment.
- To provide, when necessary, sympathetic, and effective guidance and counselling, through internal and external provision.
- To raise awareness of possible risk of harm, and to encourage pupils to make safe choices.
- To strengthen links between the school, parents, and the wider community.
- To prepare pupils for the challenges of adult and working life.

Ethos

Central to pastoral care in the school is the building of strong relationships and the fostering of mutual respect between staff and pupils. Respect for diversity, and the valuing of all members of the school community as equals, are at the heart of the school's ethos.

Roles and Responsibilities

●Governors

The primary responsibility for the care and welfare of pupil's rests with the Board of Governors.

● Staff

The School recognises that all staff share responsibility for the pastoral care of pupils and seeks to ensure that they are equipped to discharge their duties. Staff training regularly addresses pastoral care issues, and several members of staff are appointed to play a leading role, the most significant of whom are the Heads of Year.

The Head of Year plays a key role in the provision of pastoral care in the school. The Head of Year 8 is a specialist role. As far as possible there is continuity in the Head of Year role from Years 9 to 14. The Head of Year will place a high priority in getting to know the pupils in his or her Year Group and will conduct pastoral and progress interviews at intervals. The Head of Year will generally be the first point of contact between a parent or carer and the school (Appendix 1).

The Heads of Year work closely with subject teachers, and with the Form Teachers, who see their Form Classes every morning and who therefore have a significant pastoral role. Also central to pastoral care in the school are the Principal, the Vice Principal Pastoral who is also the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, the Learning Support Co-ordinator, the Classroom Assistants, the Library Assistant, Careers staff and PE and Games staff. The School Counsellor, staff in charge of clubs and societies and canteen staff also play a significant role.

●Parents

Parents are informed about pastoral care through information provided by the school. It is the responsibility of parents to support school policies and procedures. Parents are always welcome and are encouraged to contact their child's Head of Year or a senior member of staff if they have any concerns or worries (Appendix 1). This may be done by telephoning the School Office. Urgent concerns shared by parents will be given immediate attention and information disclosed will be treated as confidential. The relevant staff will liaise as necessary to implement and monitor provision for care. The opinions of parents and children will be valued and where appropriate action will be taken.

It is important that parents share relevant information about their child e.g. medical information, changes in circumstances such as a family loss/bereavement etc so the school can respond appropriately.

When the school shares concerns about their child's progress academically or pastorally the school expects parents to respond appropriately and to work with school staff to address these concerns.

●Pupils

The school encourages pupils to take responsibility for their own safety and wellbeing and seeks to help them to develop the skills to be able to do this. Aspects of personal development are addressed throughout the curriculum, most notably in Learning for Life and Work (LLW). Year Group and Junior/Senior Assemblies regularly address issues surrounding making wise life choices. The school also encourages pupils to avail of some of the many extra-curricular activities on offer, through which a wide range of life skills may be developed.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

The school recognises its statutory duty to contribute to the safeguarding of the pupils in its care and its Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy clearly identifies the welfare of the child as being paramount. Responsibility in school for Child Protection rests with the Board of Governors but is delegated to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, assisted by Deputy Designated Teachers. Training in Safeguarding and Child Protection for all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, takes place every two years (with updates every year) and staff are trained to recognise signs of abuse as well as how to respond when there is a Child Protection concern. The school works in co-operation with external agencies when child abuse is suspected. The school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy includes a Safeguarding Code of Conduct for Staff which clearly outlines the expectations of staff regarding their contact with pupils. The School Diary includes a list of agencies addressing a range of issues, whom pupils can contact for support.

Transition and Induction

Much effort is made to ensure a smooth transition to the school. Information on Medical and Special Educational Needs will be forwarded to the Learning Support Co-ordinator, Year Head and Vice Principal Pastoral.

Related policies

The school maintains a range of policies designed to support the pastoral care of pupil including and not limited to:

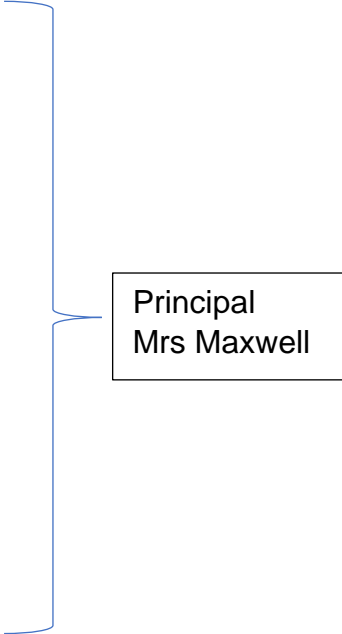
Administration of Medication Policy
Anti Bullying Policy
Behaviour Management Policy
Drugs Policy
E-safety Policy
Relationships and Sexuality Policy
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
Safeguarding Code of Conduct for Staff
Staff Acceptable Use Policy for ICT
Special Educational Needs Policy

The Senior Leadership Team will ensure that pastoral care is given a high priority in the School Development Plan. The Vice-Principal Pastoral will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Pastoral Care Policy.

Appendix 1

PARENTS – LINES OF COMMUNICATION

Areas of Concern	First Point of Contact	Second Point of Contact
Pastoral	Head of Year	Pastoral Vice Principal Miss Faris
Academic	Class Teacher/Head of Department (via Year Head)	Curriculum Vice Principal Mr Hamilton
Learning Support	Learning Support Co-ordinator Mrs Davidson	
School Administration	School Office	
Child Protection and Safeguarding	Designated Teacher Miss Faris	Deputy Designated Teachers Mr Bingham Mrs Davidson Mr Hamilton



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