



N E W C A S T L E
P R I M A R Y S C H O O L
& N U R S E R Y U N I T

Policy for Pastoral Care and Pupil Support

April 2023
To be reviewed April 2026

"Be The Best You Can Be!"

Our Vision for Newcastle Primary School

Newcastle Primary School is committed to the provision of effective education for all its pupils. We seek to prepare our children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Mission Statement

We seek to provide a happy and caring learning environment for each child. We hope that by helping them fulfil their potential, celebrating their achievements, respecting their differences and encouraging mutual respect for others, we will foster self-esteem and provide a sound foundation for future life.

Introduction

Pastoral Care plays a crucial role in the development of the ethos of the school. This ethos is based on Christian values with an emphasis on the physical, intellectual, moral, emotional and spiritual development of each pupil. We adopt a proactive stance in taking a holistic approach to develop our pupils in all of these five areas of life.

We recognise the uniqueness of each child and through our pastoral care, we want to ensure that each child feels cherished and thrives to achieve their full potential in a safe and happy environment. In every aspect of their school life we aim to equip them with the necessary skills so that they can take their place as useful and responsible members of our society.

Aims of our Pastoral Care Policy

- To create a safe, caring community within our school where there is respect for oneself and respect for the views, opinions and differences of others.
- To develop all aspects of a child's well-being i.e. their spiritual, moral, cultural, emotional, physical and academic development.
- To provide an environment that will enable each child to develop their self-confidence, their self-esteem and a positive self-image.

- To develop an understanding that God's love for us in turn fosters in us the importance of showing love to each other.
- To work in partnership with parents and outside agencies to overcome any difficulty a pupil may encounter and therefore enrich the quality of teaching and learning.

All connected to the school community should work in a spirit of mutual respect. Where such a spirit permeates a school, the success of the Pastoral Care Policy will be significantly strengthened.

Implementation of Pastoral Care Policy

In order to achieve our aims, we regard it essential that each member of staff will actively promote self-esteem of each child in their care. The pastoral care of our pupils will be developed and enhanced through a wide range of activities and opportunities (P.D.M.U. programmes.) These programmes aim to enhance the development of the 'whole' child.

To do this we will: -

Raise The Children's Social Awareness

- Provide a fair and orderly environment within school. (See Behaviour Management Policy/ Code of Conduct for staff and parents)
- Foster a sense of community with common, inclusive values e.g. through implementation of school policies and interaction within the wider community. E.g Choir visits, charitable fundraising to help the local community, NSPCC visits, PSNI, Fire Service NI etc
- Encourage children to work co-operatively and to recognise and respect social differences and similarities. (School Council, Eco Council, Playground Friends) and thus providing children with opportunities to exercise leadership and responsibility; develop personal qualities which are valued in society e.g. thoughtfulness, honesty, respect etc.
- Welcome members of the wider community into our school and keep them informed of developments e.g. school website, Class Dojo, Facebook, Open Day etc.
- Provide opportunities to participate in engaging activities which promote social development e.g. after school activities, Shared Education activities, Beach School

- Provide residential trips and day trips.

Spiritual / moral and cultural development

- Deliver Religious Education programme which promotes a Christian ethos within our school and gives pupils opportunities to explore values and beliefs and the way in which they can impact on people which will also incorporate weekly assemblies and guest speakers.
- Provide a clear moral code of behaviour through implementation of the Behaviour Management Policy, Classroom Management Plans, Anti-Bullying Policy, Online Safety etc.
- Modelling the principles and moral standards we wish to promote e.g. fairness, integrity, respect for self and others, pupil welfare, resolution of conflict etc. through curriculum work in all subjects and through the quality of relationships and interactions between adults and children.
- Encourage children to take responsibility for their actions, respect of property, care for the environment etc. through implementation of the School's Behaviour Management Policy, preventative curriculum, assemblies etc.
- Reward expressions of moral insight and good behaviour e.g. through assemblies and class reward systems.
- Provide children with opportunities to explore their own culture and develop partnerships with outside agencies and individuals to extend pupils' cultural awareness e.g. drama, music, art, wall displays etc.
- Use ICT and the internet to extend partnerships with those from other cultural backgrounds. (E.g Shared Education)
- Recognise and nurture particular gifts and talents e.g. through participation in competitive sporting events, competitions, school performances etc.

Emotional

- Use the PDMU Preventative Curriculum: PAtHs Programme, worry boxes, Helping Hands Programme, NSPCC Keeping Safe Programme, information on who to talk to if troubled or concerned etc.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to understand human emotions and feelings, the way they impact on people and how an understanding of them can be helpful.

Physical

- Implement a P.E. policy and extra-curricular activities e.g. football and netball including competitive competitions.
- Encourage Healthy eating initiatives
- Adventure playground
- Swimming in KS2
- Daily Mile
- Beach school
- Sport's Day

Academic

- Promote Self-assessment/ Peer Assessment where possible
- Extend learning through educational visits/residentials/ extra curricular activities/ beach school
- Help foster positive attitudes towards their work, peers, teachers and other adults
- Encourage pupils to develop an ability to work independently and promote good self-discipline
- Provide additional learning support e.g. Reading Partnership/ withdrawal from class
- Encourage children to express their ideas with confidence and consideration and to be tolerant of others (talking and listening activities)
- Aim to raise self -esteem through;
 - Pupil of the Day (PAtHs)
 - the celebration of children's work;
 - recognising achievements in and out of school (presentations in weekly assemblies/ sharing on Class Dojo).
 - the full involvement of pupils in their school rules, rewards and consequences;
 - assemblies and school productions
 - class duties
 - the P. 7. Playground Friends.
- Hold events- throughout the year which continue to reinforce important pastoral care information e.g. Anti-Bullying Week, Internet Safety Day.

- Review pastoral care policies and procedures every three years or as needed.

Liaison with Parents and other Agencies

In Newcastle Primary School we value the close collaboration with parents and the Board of Governors in all aspects of school life.

We encourage parents to bring any concerns about their child firstly to the class teacher's attention as soon as possible. Please be advised that Class Dojo is a platform for sharing information between parents and staff. However, Class Dojo should never be used as a forum for complaints, negative comments, or sharing of sensitive information. Parents should follow the normal school complaints procedures if they have any worries or concerns.

For information on how a parent can raise a concern about any child's safeguarding please see the Safeguarding page on our school website (www.newcastleps.com) or follow the flow chart displayed in our entrance area to the school. Should problems or misunderstandings arise, we will work with parents to follow the proper guidelines and procedures. We would ask parents to support our pastoral care policies and procedures which have been developed after much consultation and ongoing review with all members of our school community.

The school will utilise the support and expertise of other agencies. These include

- Education Authority
- Educational Psychologists
- Health Agencies
- NSPCC
- Local Ministers
- Charitable Associations
- Board of Governors
- Community PSNI
- Fire Service NI
- Community groups

Key Pastoral Care Personnel

Safeguarding Team

Mrs Crutchley- School Principal

Mrs Stewart - Designated Teacher

Mrs Bradshaw- Deputy Designated Teacher

Mrs Hanna- Senior Teacher/ ICT Co-Ordinator/ Designated First Aid
Teacher/ Deputy Designated Teacher

Reviewed by Mrs Stewart: May 2025

Shared/ modified with staff on: March 2023

To be reviewed: April 2028

Shared with parents via the school website: June 2025

Ratified by Governors on: June 2025