

St Mary's Catholic Primary Blackbrook



Pastoral Care and Guidance Policy

Quotes from Mission Statement

- To make time to support and listen to all members of our school community.
- To work together to bring about a welcoming atmosphere.
- To strengthen co-operative partnerships between families, parish, wider community and school partners.
- To promote partnerships with other outside agencies by creating positive links.

Together we will welcome and encourage an open partnership between the school, parents and wider community.

We are committed to providing an environment where children's emotional, social and physical potential are developed. It is the policy of the school that a sense of community and mutual care and respect are fostered. Respect for others, support and empathy are modelled and encouraged.

The school provides support, confidentiality (when appropriate) and help when required. It will liaise with outside agencies when necessary. We will be truthful with children and explore possible responses to situations.

Children are made aware of members of staff they can turn to, this includes the pastoral team in addition to their class teacher if they so wish. They are also made aware of systems (Learning Mentor Box) in which they can ask for help. We recognise that members of the school community are not trained counsellors and they should, in appropriate cases, seek outside advice. Through PSHE children are made aware of outside organisations and charities which they can turn to for support if they so desire.

Staff can make referrals to the Learning Mentor for group or 1:1 support as appropriate. The Pastoral Team meet weekly to discuss concerns raised and assign appropriate help and support to the child and their parents/carers.

The policy is reflected in many ways:

- ✚ Mission Statement
- ✚ Providing a safe environment where problems can be shared and respected
- ✚ Finding time for children who are distressed
- ✚ Dealing with potential issues in circle time before they become a problem. This will include dealing with prejudices, jealousy and isolation, etc.
- ✚ Discussing issues in formal and informal groups
- ✚ Staff being receptive to body language and signals that may indicate a call for concern
- ✚ Time set aside for Pastoral team to listen and support children who are having difficulties mixing with other children and generally finding it difficult to fit in. Possible coping strategies are discussed and good behaviour promoted.
- ✚ Learning mentor/ Deputy Head – support for carers/ parents
- ✚ Peer support at playtimes through activities such as “Young Play Leaders” and “Reading Buddies”.