

Braidside Integrated Primary School
Pastoral Care Policy

Vision Statement

We aim to work together to support each child in reaching their personal and academic potential within a culture of mutual respect.

The Principal is responsible for the area of Pastoral Care; monitoring how pastoral care is delivered and practiced throughout the school, supporting staff and pupils as well as providing overall guidance.

The Board of Governors will oversee the implementation of Pastoral Care and will be kept abreast of developments and policy work.

The Principal and Vice Principal are the designated and deputy designated officers for child protection respectively. The school works within the current Area Committees' Child Protection guidelines and makes use of advice from the EA designated officer as appropriate.

The school has policies on bullying and child protection. The well-being and comfort of the children is an important part of our school ethos and the ethos of Integrated Education.

See related documents- Positive Behaviour / Policy on Bullying; Child Protection Policy, SEN policy.

Pastoral Care.

At Braidside every child is important, regardless of their present ability and background.

While seeking to encourage the children to reach their academic potential we also aim to nurture their social and emotional growth. We hope to provide a pleasant and secure environment for all the children, and to meet their particular needs.

The Principal oversees the pastoral care of the children. This includes the care and safety of the children from the time they arrive at school until they leave for home. It also includes provision for the care of the sick or injured children and the oversight of transport (transport is contracted and managed by the EA). It will also include a regard for the general welfare of the children especially those felt to be neglected or in danger.

Primary responsibility is that of the class teacher who will liaise with the Principal on any matter which causes concern.

Parents

In Braidside parents have an opportunity to attend annual Introductory Talks given at the start of each new academic year. This informs parents of routines, curriculum plans and topics, homework while allowing them to ask any particular relevant questions.

There are also two opportunities to participate in Parent Interviews (usually in October/ March) to discuss their child's progress. Parents are informed of their child's annual standardised test results at Interviews.

We encourage parents to contact their child's class teacher where they have particular concerns about any aspects of their child's education and to keep the teacher and school informed of any changes which may impact on their child.

Parents have opportunities to participate in curriculum workshops and are encouraged to support their child's homework.

Teaching Staff

Staff are kept up-to-date about Pastoral Care during the August Baker Days, School Development Days, INSET training and through staff meetings. Staff meetings take place on a cycle (Week 1 : Full staff meeting, Week 2: Key Stage meeting, Week 3: Senior Management Team meeting) and aim to be 1 hour in duration.

Coordinator roles are agreed annually during the August Baker Days and staff are encouraged to lead their particular area and to provide support to each other. Good practice is shared during meetings and through the sharing of pupil work and outcomes.

The Vice-Principal has responsibility for Newly Qualified Teachers as teacher tutor. At the start of each new school year staff are reminded of the Staff Care Support Service which provides counselling and support for staff who may be experiencing difficulties. The service is confidential and information regarding Carecall is displayed in the staff room.

General Issues

- **Supervision**

There will be a rota whereby teachers will oversee the supervision of break-times and the Principal will arrange for lunch-time to be covered; supervisory assistants are employed.

Children will not be admitted to the school buildings before 9a.m. except at the Principal's discretion or that of the deputy. Supervision is provided from 8.30am; in the playground in fair weather, and in the hall in poor weather. Children are expected to leave the school grounds immediately school ends unless they are engaged in a supervised activity. However, any child whose transport arrangements have failed will be looked after and if necessary taken home.

- **Contact**

A register will be maintained of names, addresses and telephone numbers of parents' places of work and of others who may be contacted if an emergency should arise concerning any child or children. Any child who is ill or injured will be kept in school or taken to hospital at the school's discretion. Arrangements will be made for a parent or other person deputed by the parents to receive or collect the child from school or hospital. Every effort will be made to inform parents of any illness or injury affecting their child.

Information will be sought from parents concerning any special care which should be taken of their child and this will be registered.

- **Child Protection training**

Staff are given an annual refresher on Pastoral Care policy in meetings with the teaching staff (usually as part of an August training day) and ancillary staff (usually in September) at the start of each school year. New staff are given training on appointment. Training highlights: the importance of the child's welfare; possible indicators; who to inform; safe-guarding procedures, self-protection; the school code of conduct.

- **Medicines**

Current advice cautions teachers to be very careful about accepting responsibility for administering medicine. However, in order to be helpful the staff will try to ensure that simple, mild treatments are taken at the correct time if a child is being treated for a mild ailment.

Please hand medicine to the teacher with a note detailing treatment required.

For those children with a particular need, the school has staff trained to use epipens and in emergency CPR.

The school also maintains a defibrillator in the main office. The school has staff trained to use the defibrillator and these are displayed alongside it.

- **Drug Education Policy**

The school is aware of the problems which the children may face as they grow up. We have a drug education policy which is part of our approach to health education and PDMU. We aim to encourage children to have a healthy attitude to life. We are aware of the pressures on young people in today's society and will endeavour to provide the children with the skills required to deal with life effectively, including the self-esteem and assertiveness required to say 'no' in difficult situations.

- **Healthy Breaks**

The school operates a Healthy Break policy which parents receive a copy of when children begin in Primary 1. The policy requires that children choose any bread

products, fruit or vegetables for break accompanied by either water or milk. Teachers use a variety of stamp and sticker rewards to encourage children to engage with the policy. During the annual Sports Days healthy snacks are provided by the school.

- **Rewards System**

There are a variety of reward systems in operation throughout the school. Some children may have individual charts/ stickers/ stamps to assist with the development of positive behaviour. Additionally there are:

Reward Charts-

certificate and prize (normally a school Happy Pen) for 10 stamps.

Merit Assemblies-

certificates awarded fortnightly in Assembly.

Celebration Assembly-

Held termly to celebrate achievements outside school.

Children can be sent to the Principal, Vice Principal, or colleague at other times for extra praise.

Each class teacher puts in place their own arrangements, as appropriate to the age of the children and the class management strategies relevant to their particular group.

- **Assembly**

There are weekly KS1 assemblies on a Thursday morning at 10am and fortnightly assemblies for KS2 on Friday at 10am. The Principal usually takes the assemblies at the start and end of the term, while a rota is in place for assemblies to be taken by teachers during term time. As a school with a Christian ethos bible stories, hymns and prayers may form part of the assembly. We are mindful however of different faiths and cultures within our school. From time to time we may also have guest speakers or visitors.

- **Peer Mediation Training**

Each Primary 6 Year group receives Peer Mediation training. Teachers who have been trained to deliver a Peer Mediation Programme organise a series of practical workshops which include role-play, thinking skills and group discussions.

The trained mediators are able to offer a playground service once they reach P7. While this is a benefit, the training itself plays a significant role in helping to shape the pupils' social and emotional development. Individuals develop a better awareness of each other and have an understanding of positive conflict resolution.

- **Student Council**

Members of the Student Council are generally from the P6 and P7 classes. They meet on a regular basis with a member of staff to look at issues pertinent to the pupils.

- **PDMU, Circle Time**

PDMU is being taught in classes through the school. Circle time is also in use. The school engages annually in the Anti-Bullying Week, holding special assemblies, participating in specific anti-bullying activities and the promotion of anti-bullying behaviours.

- **Road Safety**

Road Safety lessons are delivered to the children as part of the PDMU curriculum. Children will also have opportunities to engage in visits from the local PSNI Community Police.