



# Dair House School Pastoral Care Policy



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**Monitoring: Deputy Head   Updated: November 2018   Review: August 2019**

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## General

This policy applies to all children and adults at Dair House School.

At Dair House School children are cared for as individuals with the aim of meeting their needs not only in academic terms but also pastorally. The happiness and well-being of each child is of paramount importance. The school endeavours to cultivate an atmosphere where the children can voice their concerns because they know that their anxieties, no matter how large or small, will be listened to. Good manners are encouraged, as indeed are tolerance and concern for the needs of others.

Children flourish in a happy, yet well disciplined environment. Pupils should appreciate that they can approach any adult on our staff when they are worried. It is the Form Teacher's responsibility to get to know their pupils, to develop an understanding of their strengths and weaknesses and to see each child as a personality. The Form Teacher is committed to following up any concern a member of the Dair House School community raises in order to help the pupils grow in confidence and self esteem and to be happy.

Pupils are expected to observe the Dair House Golden Rules, uphold the ethos of the Dair House and abide by the guidelines set out in the School Uniform policy and the Behaviour and Discipline policy. There are opportunities to address pastoral care issues in: PSHE lessons, curriculum time, non-curriculum time and assemblies. Pastoral care involves every member of the Dair House school community.

## Aims

- To provide opportunities for all pupils to embrace Dair House School's Golden Rules and to adapt them as values for life.
- To communicate regularly and openly with parents in support of their child's general welfare, learning and development.

More specifically, the aims of pastoral care include:

- For pupils to develop a set of morals.
- To encourage self-reliance, confidence and good manners.
- For pupils to have pride in their achievements (and those of their peers), personal appearance and behaviour.
- For pupils to have high self-esteem, respecting themselves, others and their environment.
- To ensure the school is a secure, happy and safe environment, where moral values are actively promoted and each member of the community is valued.
- To allow the school to have an atmosphere of support, challenge and encouragement.

## **Methodology**

The school works on the premise that communication is vitally important and parents and staff are encouraged to make contact sooner rather than later to ensure the well-being of the pupils.

The Form Teacher is the first point of contact for all pupils, staff and parents alike. Information is passed on immediately where appropriate via schoolbase, staff pigeon holes, the staff room notice board or verbally.

There are regular staff meetings, where pupil issues can be brought up as soon as they arise.

The Form Teacher will be available to meet with parents or to use the telephone. If something has happened during the day, it is important that parents are fully informed at, or before, the end of the school day.

This is particularly important in any case of suspected bullying where the policy is to contact parents before the child goes home that day.

Conversations and meetings with parents should be recorded and a copy passed on to the Headmaster so that he is informed of the meeting.

If the Form Teacher feels that he/she cannot deal with a situation, they should pass the matter on to the Head of Pre-Prep/Deputy Head. During this process, being a small school, the Form Teacher and Head of Pre-Prep/Deputy Head should keep the other staff informed if necessary.

### **Additional pastoral care information:**

- Pupils, parents and staff work closely together and communicate regularly (including via the Reading Comment book or Homework Diary).
- Pupils' input is valued with regard to anti-bullying advice and guidance for other/younger pupils.
- Promote the Golden Rules via whole school assemblies, PSHE lessons, rewards and sanctions, pupil mentors and new pupil 'buddies'.
- Pupils from Year 6 (and sometimes Year 5) are given pastoral responsibilities e.g. Head of School, Prefects, House and Games Captains, Friendship Buddies, lunch monitors.
- Class teachers, subject teachers, classroom assistants, key workers in the Nursery and ancillary staff monitor the welfare of those pupils in their care.
- Members of the Senior Management Team are involved closely with pastoral care in the School.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

We are committed to reviewing our approach to pastoral care through staff training, in response to observations.

## **Links with Other Policies**

Related Dair House School policies are the Behaviour and Discipline Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, PSHE Policy, SMSC Policy and Child Protection Policy.