

Ballacottier Primary School



Pastoral Care Policy

Approved By:	Full Governing Body
Date:	February 2022
Review Date:	February 2024
Signed:	

Aims

At Ballacottier Primary School, we endeavour to meet the personal, social, and emotional needs as well as the academic needs of our children in order for them to feel happy, secure and enjoy being in school in whatever activity they are taking part in.

We believe pastoral care can assist students to develop positive self-esteem, healthy risk taking, goal setting and negotiation, so enhancing their strengths and other protective factors contributing to their resilience, as well as developing a sense of social cohesion that together can improve their overall health and wellbeing

We endeavour to approach the welfare of our pupils in a positive way; all our staff reinforce the core values and ethos of the school

CORE VALUES

**Treat people as you would want them to treat you -
Respect, Value and Support each other**

Create happy memories through positive experiences

Be brave, be yourself, be proud to be you

Always aim high and have high expectations

Engaging the Student Body

Effective pastoral care supports students and facilitates the development of self-esteem, social skills and coping with stress.

All our children will feel able to talk freely and openly to any member of staff if they have any worries or problems of any kind. Staff will always respond to children in an appropriate manner, offering advice, support, guidance and reassurance in conjunction with our other policies, including our Behaviour, Health and Safety and Safeguarding Policy. Pupil Voice is valued at Ballacottier and children are encouraged to have their say to make Ballacottier an even more enjoyable environment. Breakfast Club reduces the stress of morning routines at home and helps improve behaviour and attendance. Children are able to access activities at their own pace and make individual choices in a social setting.

The role of our staff

All staff will initially try and resolve minor difficulties, worries or upsets involving any child, which arise within the classroom or the playground. Incidents that are

more serious, or concerns about a child's behaviour, health or welfare, should be referred to the Headteacher and/or the Deputy Headteacher.

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher co-ordinate the pastoral care within the school. Where necessary they will devise a Pastoral Support Programme or activities for individual children to support or manage pupils' particular difficulties. These may be administered by other staff members, for example "Circle of Friends." Parents/Carers are involved in the Support Programme as much as possible and Individual Pastoral Plans are arranged, if applicable. A Nurture Group focusses on the current needs of the children at Ballacottier Primary.

The well being of the staff is also a major priority in our whole school pastoral care.

Communicating with parents.

At Ballacottier we believe one of the fundamentals of any pastoral policy and indeed a successful school is the communication between all parties. Early communication, even if the message is not positive, will always foster a more effective and positive response than a late communication. Similarly distributing information as appropriately as possible will also help keep all parties informed. Within our school community it is expected that staff will communicate on all pastoral issues and concerns as promptly as possible. Teachers collate any notes of concern on Arbor where necessary. This helps to build up a whole picture of the child's needs.

Contact will be made in person, when the child is collected from school, or by a telephone call or letter. Parents are encouraged to talk to their child's Class Teacher initially, followed by the Head or Deputy if necessary, if they have any concerns or worries.

Parents should feel able to share concerns about home circumstances that might affect their child's work or behaviour in school and all discussions are treated as confidential.

The Curriculum

Through our curriculum the school helps pupils to manage existing challenges and aims to prepares them for the next stage of their education and for adult and working life. Regular time is set aside for Circle Time in class as the need arises or as a cross- curricular teaching and learning tool. Through daily routines, assemblies, PSHE, P4C activities, development of our Secrets to Success, Growth Mindset and whole school initiatives, children are encouraged to think about what they need to do to be healthy and happy. They are encouraged to be active, be

outdoors and demonstrate caring attitudes towards each other through curricular and extra curricular activities.

External Support

The Headteacher, Deputy and Senior Leadership Team oversee the general welfare of the children in school, informing class teachers if there are any concerns.

The school works closely with external agencies whenever necessary -such as counselling and bereavement services (Cruze), school nurse, social services, Early Help and Support (EHAS) Child and adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Educational Psychologists, and the Forest school.

Staff attend reviews and case conference meetings. The school liaises with pre school groups and secondary schools to ensure individual needs are in place for transition.

New Parent meetings are held in May in preparation for a new start at Ballacottier and any concerns from parents are addressed early on.

February 2022