



Pastoral Care Policy

Pastoral care in St. Teresa's Nursery School will always be concerned with creating a caring, secure, community in which every member feels valued, supported and happy. All staff will strive to work in line with the ethos of the school.

St. Teresa's Nursery School aspires to provide a child focused pre-school experience that is warm and welcoming, open and inclusive, and one that will positively introduce each child to education. To achieve this end, St. Teresa's Nursery School promotes and encourages:

1. Staff to be unashamedly approachable and accessible.
2. A friendly and welcoming environment for parents, guardians and their children.
3. The comprehensive involvement of parents and guardians in the life of the school and the education of their children.
4. Full inclusivity for children, irrespective of need, ability, denomination or race.
5. Cross denominational enrolment.
6. A nurturing educational atmosphere based on fun and positivity.
7. Flexibility of learning that engages all children and allows them to reach their full potential.
8. The development of confident, happy children who are keen to progress to primary school

In St. Teresa's Nursery School, the pastoral care structures are based on the school's aims. The staff at St. Teresa's Nursery School, in partnership with parents, aim to provide a caring and stimulating environment where each child will have the opportunity to develop fully in every aspect of his/her development. To this end, it is the aim of the school that every child should be given opportunities to:

- Develop at his/her own rate through challenging, progressive play.
- Learn to share with others and play co-operatively.
- Appreciate and care for others and practise social skills.
- Deepen and lengthen concentration through his/her natural spontaneous curiosity and interest.
- Choose and explore a wide range of materials which allow him/her to express himself/herself appropriately and creatively.
- Become aware of his/her body's capabilities and limits in a safe environment
- Communicate thoughts, ideas and feelings clearly to both adults and other children.
- Share the wonder and excitement created by books, stories, songs, rhymes, music and the natural environment.
- Grow in self-confidence, experience success and thus develop a good self-image.
- Enjoy the satisfaction of work well done and share with his/her parents.
- Recognise the importance of learning outdoors and to play purposefully in the many outdoor spaces available at Nursery.

Pastoral care is a shared responsibility for all staff and is promoted in all areas of teaching and learning and in all aspects of school life. The pastoral care ethos is made visible:

1. Through the whole curriculum.
2. Through the hidden curriculum - school ethos, staff-pupil relationships, physical environment, partnership with parents in school life and through the implementation of a fair behaviour management policy (see separate policy for detail).

Special Educational Needs

All pupils are entitled to a broad, balanced curriculum adapted to their needs. At St. Teresa's Nursery School, we are committed to ensuring that staff have sufficient training in order to implement the Code of Practice and to ensure that children with special needs are identified early and that their needs are catered for within the school or if required, with the help of external agencies.

Bullying

The aim of our pastoral care policy is to create a community in which all staff and pupils feel safe, valued, supported and happy. Bullying is an activity which flows contrary to this stated aim. Issues of bullying will be followed up immediately and will involve the class teacher and parents working in partnership with the Principal to resolve the issue. Anti-bullying messages will be promoted through Circle Time, PATHS Anti-Bullying Week and through the Personal Social and Emotional Development curriculum content.

Parents/carers, community and outside agencies

St. Teresa's Nursery School recognises the paramount role that parents play in their children's lives. We appreciate that the pastoral care arrangements will be more focused and effective if there is a strong link with parents/carers. We will continually strive to ensure that such links are fostered and strengthened so as to ensure the best for every child. In order to foster these links, parents/carers will be presented with opportunities to become involved in the life of the school.

Well-being

Should a child become ill at school, the child will be made as comfortable as possible and parents or a named relative will be contacted. If the situation is deemed serious and a parent/relative cannot be contacted, the school will contact the child's doctor to seek guidance or depending on the seriousness of the situation an ambulance may also be called. A member of staff will stay with the child until parents/carers arrive.

- Infectious disease

If a child attends with an infectious disease, parents/carers will be contacted by the Principal and informed of the exclusion period. Parents carers should inform the school about any infectious disease that their child may have.

- Head lice

In the event of a case of head lice, parents will be informed that there is a case of head lice in the school and appropriate advice will be given. The source of the head lice will remain anonymous.

- Trauma (death, separation, divorce)

Teachers will be sensitive to the needs of pupils at difficult family times and make appropriate allowances for families affected by such events. The support of outreach services can be sought, as appropriate and in partnership between home and school.

Intimate Care

All staff who provide intimate care to children have completed child protection training and will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain. All intimate care support will be recorded by the staff member who attends to the child and parents/carers will be made aware of any clothing changes. Please see the school's Intimate Care Policy.

Medication

Should a child require the administration of medication during the school day, parental consent will be required to formally authorise this (Appendix 1). Class Teachers create Medical Action Plans for all pupils on the medical register and these are shared with parents/carers for accuracy. All staff are made aware of these action plans and all pupils on the medical register are known to staff and students.

St. Teresa's Nursery School is a nut free zone and all parents/ carers have been made aware of this during the Induction process.

Monitoring and evaluation

This policy will be reviewed and monitored in line with the school's policy review schedule.

Appendix 1

Consent form for administering medication in school

Pupil's Name.....

Teacher.....

Date.....

I give permission for my child to be given the medication as outlined below by a designated staff member during school hours.

Medication.....

Dosage.....

When to be taken.....

Signed.....

Relationship to pupil named above.....

Date.....

