

Columba College



Pastoral Care Policy 2023-2025

Date Ratified: _____

Signature: _____ Chairperson of the Board

Signature: _____ Principal

Date of Review: _____



Pastoral Care

The pastoral care policy encompasses the whole school community.

Pastoral Care should permeate all areas of school life.

In Columba College we facilitate the development of all members of our school community. In our school community we foster relationships based on respect. We engender a sense of belonging to our school community where each individual is valued and their uniqueness recognised. We promote a school community which is positive and caring. We aim to provide a safe and secure environment for our pupils. We believe Pastoral Care is the responsibility of the entire school community.

Relationship to school ethos/mission

Through the implementation of this policy we strive to enact the stated Mission of Columba College. We value all in the school community and endeavour to develop each member of the school community.

Rationale for policy

Pastoral Care is an integral part of our mission in Columba College and as such it needs a formal structure to ensure its effectiveness in our school community on a day to day basis and particularly at critical time. In Columba College we believe Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life.

Goals of the policy

That each member of the school community will

- Feel cared for and valued
- Be developed to his/her full potential, spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically, socially, personally and aesthetically
- Have a sense of belonging to our school community

Roles and Responsibilities and Implementation of the policy

Board of Management:

The Board of Management will approve and assure the implementation of this policy.

Principal/ Deputy Principal

The Principal/Deputy Principal will work to ensure that our school is primarily a caring community. The management is committed to supporting the Pastoral Care of all within Columba College. The management makes time available to meet parents, staff and students in a supportive atmosphere. Management facilitates in house staff development and encourages participation in external associations, programmes and courses particularly when those programmes/course have a direct influence on student learning.

All School Staff

Due care and respect will form the basis of all dealings the staff may have with all members of the school community and visitors to the school.

Class Teacher

Teachers conduct classes in a structured and ordered environment. The relationship fostered in the class is based on mutual respect. The classroom teacher deals with situations that arise in class and

in more serious situations s/he refers the student to a class teacher/ Deputy Principals/ Counsellor as in the teacher information guidelines.

Chaplin:

The School Chaplain is in a unique position to assist the pastoral care system within our school. The Chaplain will work with the staff in providing spiritual and pastoral care to the whole school community and will communicate at all times with the Principal, Deputy Principals, Guidance Counsellors, Year Head, Tutor and Parents on all relevant matters relating to the students.

Critical Incident Team

The critical incident team will meet on a regular basis.

Guidance Counsellor

The Guidance Counsellor provides a wide range of services to support students. She is available to meet students in class groups and for individual consultation with students and/or parents on matters relating to career advice and possible personal difficulties.

Religious Education RE Teachers

The RE teachers deliver the RE Programme to all students in the school.

The Students Council

The students council is a representative structure of all the students in the school. It provides students with the opportunity to become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with school management, staff and parents. It should always work for the benefit of the school and its students.

The Student Council will always work in consultation with the school management. Their responsibilities are as follows:

- Working with the staff, Board of Management and Parents Association in the school
- Communicating and consulting with all of the students in the school
- Involving as many students as possible in the activities of the Council
- Planning and managing the Council's programme of activities for the year.
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Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Programme Teachers

SPHE teacher deliver the SPHE Programme (one class period per week) to the junior cycle students. The aims of the SPHE programme are:

- To enable the students to develop skills for self-fulfilment and living in communities
- To promote self-esteem and self-confidence
- To enable the students to develop a framework for responsible decision making
- To provide opportunities for reflection and discussion
- To promote physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing.

In the SPHE programme a wide range of issues are addressed in ten modules. The ten modules are:

- Belonging and Integrating
- Self-Management: A sense of purpose
- Communication Skills
- Physical Health
- Friendships
- Relationships and Sexuality
- Emotional Health
- Influences and Decisions
- Substance Use
- Personal Safety

Learning Support/Resource Teacher

The learning support teachers support students academically as well as socially and personally to facilitate their holistic education. The work is carried out in conjunction with the mainstream teachers and in collaboration with home and external agencies.

Special Needs Assistants:

Special Needs Assistants provide care and assistance to the students allocated to their care.

Students

Relationships in the school will be based on respect and courtesy. Students should at all times be supportive to all in the school community. Students should respect school property and the environment and take responsibility for keeping it in good order.

Class Teachers

Class Teachers take particular care of one class group. They engender a supportive, positive atmosphere in which success and achievement are highlighted and valued. S/he liaises with class teachers, parents and management on a regular basis.

Pastoral Care Programmes

The following policies/programmes will contribute to the Pastoral Care Programme in a positive and caring manner.

Anti-Bullying Policy

The anti-bullying programme encourages anti-bullying awareness and to have procedures in place to deal with incidents of bullying.

Code of Behaviour

The code of behaviour is in place to facilitate learning and teaching in a positive, safe and secure atmosphere, The Code has been developed in partnership with the staff, students, parents and management.

Critical Incident Policy

There is a critical incident policy in place. Please refer to that.

Extra-Curricular Activities

A wide range of activities including sporting, cultural, dramatic and artistic events facilitate the personal development of students, assists the development of interpersonal and intrapersonal skills.

Health and Safety Policy

Refer to policy

Induction Programme for First Year Students

An induction programme for incoming first year students is held at the beginning of the academic year. The class teacher advises pupils of the code of behaviour expected in Columba College. Timetables and maps of the school building are distributed to the new students and class teachers will inform them of various working policies and procedures operating within the school.

Induction Programme for Parents of incoming First Year Students

The parents of the incoming First Year students are invited to the school for an information evening. The aim of the evening is to help the parents and the incoming students with a smooth transition from primary to post-primary school.

Mentoring Programme

Currently under review

Religious Education

Refer to policy

Substance Misuse Policy

Refer to policy

Pastoral Procedures

- Class Assembly
- Meetings
- Critical Incident Procedure
- Counselling
- Special Occasions
 - Bereavement
 - Allegations of violence, bullying, abuse
 - Suspicion of violence, bullying, abuse, pregnancy, suicide tendencies, self-harm etc.

Performance Criteria

The Pastoral Care Programmes are being implemented effectively.

The Pastoral Care procedures are effective.

The Goals of the policy that each member of the school community will

- Feel cared for and valued
- Be developed to his/her full potential – spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically, socially, personally and aesthetically.
- To have a sense of belonging to our school community

Are being achieved.

Monitoring the Implementation of the Policy

The monitoring and implementation of this policy will keep in mind that Pastoral Care should permeate all areas of school life.

- Care Team meeting will take place to monitor the Pastoral Care of the pupils
- Teachers will discuss the academic and pastoral development of each student at parent/teacher meetings.

Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed in two year's time.

Signature _____ Chairperson of Board of Management

Signature _____ School Principal

Date of next review:

