



Title: *Pastoral care*

Scope: *Whole school*

Relationship to Schools' mission statement

Lanesboro Community College is committed to providing superior services and academic programs that challenge the mind and body, instilling the joy of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. We recognise every member of our school community as a unique individual, each with the potential to grow academically, emotionally, spiritually and socially and it is our aim to provide an environment conducive to this development at all times.

We want our school to be a happy school where good and positive learning takes place.

Rationale

As a Pastoral Care Team our aim is to support and nourish the holistic development of all those who are part of our school community; students, parents, staff and those who come into contact with us.

Goals

*These are the areas we need to **focus** on.*

- We hope to value and support each person so he/she can fulfil his/her true and full potential.
- We hope, in so far as possible, to promote a positive and caring environment which meets the needs of all the school
- Priority will be given to the nurturing of positive teaching and learning relationships.
- To encourage a sense of social justice within the school community.
- To establish and maintain a good rapport between school, community and home.

- To prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- We aim to provide a counselling service and referral service for those who are experiencing problems in school or in their personal lives.
- We also work closely with our School Completion Support Worker in identifying and offering extra support to vulnerable students.

Policy Content

We promote, develop and implement the following activities:

- Every year we offer Retreats/Personal Development days for each class in the school. We offer extra support to foreign national students who may experience problems adapting to a new environment.
- We have developed our school induction policy which puts in place procedures and structures to make all members of our school community welcome.
- We link in with various events/information nights for parents, usually organised by the HSCL
- We ensure that all SEN students are included in all aspects of the school life.
- We monitor and support students from disadvantaged and minority background.
- Opening of year Mass/Grad Mass or suitable services and celebrations.
- SVP
- Peer Mentoring
- Parents room
Prayer Room/Quiet Space
- Linking with Parents Association
- Working with Outside Agencies
- As part of the pastoral care programme speakers are invited to the school on a regular basis. Organisations, for example, An Tobar Nua, Garda, Trócaire etc. visit the school regularly to conduct workshops/information sessions.
- Community Links(Parish, Nursing home)
- As a pastoral care team we also have been involved in formulating the following policies
- SPHE/RSE
- Chaplaincy
- Crisis Management
- Religious Education
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Substance Misuse
- Child Protection Guidelines
- Induction

Roles and Responsibilities.

*These are **the people** who will make our policy happen.*

School Principal

Chaplain, Guidance, HSCL, SPHE, Learning Support, Deputy Principal.

Role is to respond, educate, inform, monitor and support.

Student Support (subgroup of Pastoral Care)

- Positive behaviour programme.
- Encourage participation in school life.
- Ensure retention.
- School journals
- Monitor academic progress
- Promote whole school approach to Student Support

The pastoral care structure

Description of role The pastoral care team involves Chaplain, Guidance Counsellor, HSCL officer, SPHE teacher, learning support teacher, Principal and deputy principal. Our team meet every week to discuss issues arising. The School Chaplain takes the minutes of our meetings and emails them to the team on a weekly basis.

In an emergency or crisis situation the pastoral care team can meet at very short notice and management is highly accommodating and supportive at these times. Informal meetings on matters of concern are part of the fabric of the school day.

The team is highly efficient and supportive. Contact with homes and counselling appointments are made where situations demand. If parents are asked to visit the school as a result of a situation arising, every effort is made to make this as easy as possible for the parent/s. They would generally be met by two members of the team only.

Success Criteria

*This is how we know our **policy is working**.*

- Our school is a happy healthy place where good relationships are fostered and where there is mutual support and understanding.
- Students and staff know they will be supported at all times.
- Successful outcomes as a result of teamwork and interventions
- The school community celebrates and appreciates the spiritual aspect of life.
- Responds quickly and effectively in situations where support is needed

- All members of our community feel welcome, valued and important in our school.

Monitoring Procedures

Annual evaluation of policy

Review Procedures

*This is where we **identify improvements** which will make our policy work better.*

Signed Willie Denny Date 8/3/24
Chairperson

Rozel Shannon Date 8/3/24
Principal