

Safeguarding in Our Lady Queen of Peace P.S. & Nursery Unit



Pastoral Care, Anti-Bullying, Child Protection, Health & Safety, Positive Behaviour

Pastoral Care

- In Our Lady Queen of Peace P.S. Pastoral Care is a priority and is at the centre of all that we do.
- We see our children as individuals who can grow and develop in a stimulating environment where they are given the opportunities to develop their abilities and talents.
- The staff strive to promote a sense of self-respect, self-worth and positive self-esteem in each child.
- We believe in a “Living Catholic Ethos” where children see from the example of others around them how to work and co-operate with others in a spirit of caring and kindness. We want our children to have a sense of **belonging** to a community, (school, parish, family), with an understanding of what is meant by a **responsibility** to it.

Best policies come from existing best practice and we have established a number of good practices which will contribute to the above aims: Reward systems, Star of the Week, Circle Time, School Council, Buddy System, etc. Children are encouraged to contribute to and take part-ownership of school rules and initiatives.

All staff, teaching and non-teaching, have been trained in Child Protection issues and procedures. They have been made aware of the school ethos and the Code of Conduct is followed by everyone who has contact with our children.

All these practices and contributions will feed into other policies which are integral parts of the Pastoral Care Policy: Positive Behaviour; Anti-Bullying; Health and Safety, etc.

These policies are constantly reviewed and updated.

Child Protection

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, (1991), states:

- “Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence; they must be kept safe from harm; and they must be given proper care by looking after them.” (Article 19)
- “When adults or organisations make decisions which affect children, they must always think first what would be best for the child.”

The central thrust of the Children Order(NI) 1995 is that the welfare of the child must be the paramount consideration, and it is this essential principle which underpins the advice which follows.

- We acknowledge the dignity and self-worth of each child in our school and their right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse by those looking after them.
- We recognise our pastoral responsibility to the children in our charge and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that their welfare is safeguarded and their safety is preserved.
- Where this has been infringed, or may have been infringed, the school will follow all statutory obligations and respond to both suspected and disclosed cases of abuse.
- In this, we recognise the need to co-operate with parents / guardians and to keep them informed on the review of our Child Protection Policy every two years.

How a parent can raise a concern

I have a concern about my / a child's safety.

1. I can talk to the class teacher.
2. If I am still concerned I can talk to **Mr Kilpatrick** (**Designated Teacher** for Child Protection).
3. If I am still concerned I can talk to **Miss Morton** (**Deputy Designated Teacher** for Child Protection).
4. If I am still concerned I can talk to **Mrs Clark, Vice Principal** or **Miss Dougan, Principal**
5. If I am still concerned I can talk / write to **Chairperson of the Board of Governors**.
6. At any time I can talk to the social worker or the police.

*A copy of the complete Pastoral Care Policy is available on the school website.
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School phone number: 02890613050