



PASTORAL CARE POLICY

ST. MACNISSIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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St MacNissi's is committed to developing each child's full potential to become a positive contributor to society in their adult life. We strive to achieve this by working in partnership with the child, their parents and the wider community, to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding truly reflecting Catholic values

'The ethos of a Catholic School is clearly seen in its Pastoral Care. This is because the values which sustain pastoral care are inspired by Christ the Good Shepherd and his faithful love for his flock'

(Life to the Full 1996)

At St MacNissis Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life and is composed of different policies, programmes and procedures. It is through the Pastoral dimension that we hope to achieve the aims of the school. It reflects the values, attitudes, beliefs and practices of our Catholic faith and involves all members of the school community-children; parents, teachers, the Board of Governors and all other adults who come contribute to the well being of each pupil. For pupils, this will encourage each individual child to develop to his/her full potential by setting personal, social and academic goals through a planned developmental approach. For teachers, it will involve providing them with opportunities for professional development. The Pastoral dimension throughout school contributes to the creation of a supportive ethos for both teachers and pupils.

The School at Work

We believe that the school and the community cannot lead separate lives. Our aim is to bring the life of the school into the community and the life of the community into the school. We work closely with Governors to develop the school and to foster a sense of partnership with parents. We believe that we have a sense of duty to help parents to understand the aims of the school. Developing links with playgroups, Secondary and other Primary schools, the Health Service and the Church are all important aspects of the school's role.

Teachers at School

The staff at St MacNissis are caring people who treat children with respect both in the way that they speak to them and by the interest that is shown for their welfare. Each individual is valued equally and is encouraged to do his or her best at all times. Each teacher strives to assure pupils that we are deeply concerned not only with their educational progress but also about their total well being as unique individuals. We take the view that effective teaching is the highest form of care and that good teacher – pupil relationships lie at the heart of effective teaching.

As a staff we therefore aim:-

- to make prayer and worship and liturgy real educational experiences and to contribute successfully to the development of faith of each individual within the school community
- to provide activities which will develop the whole child and which are selected on the basis of children's ability, aptitude or choice, offering equal opportunities for all
- to use a variety of well proven teaching methods both informal and formal, sometimes teaching as a whole class, sometimes in groups and sometimes individually
- to make the fullest use of first hand, practical experiences and to allow children time to dwell on areas of learning in order to achieve work of quality for thorough, structured teaching with continuity of learning from year to year
- to praise good work and effort frequently
- to participate in, and encourage interaction between the home, the parish and the school.

The Learning Environment

The School aims to provide a safe, happy, caring, well-ordered environment in which learning can take place and where each child is valued as an individual. We try our best to make the school buildings and grounds attractive and stimulating places. It is our aim, too, to present a well organised and tidy environment to children, so that resources and work materials are readily accessible. We are always conscious of the need to maintain high standards of safety in our school and regularly conduct health and safety reviews.

Each teacher in the school works very hard to create and maintain a caring and supportive environment in which all pupils can develop the personal and social skills, which they need to play a confident and responsible role in society. We are also very aware of the need to help pupils manage their present lives as well as helping them prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The Role of Parents

We recognise and value the important role, which parents play in their child's education. Every effort is made to ensure that parents feel welcomed into school, that they are aware of the school's aims, objectives and policies and of their child's needs, progress and achievements. Parents are encouraged, through the Parents Association, to take a keen interest in the affairs of the school and their support in attending various school functions is very much appreciated. All parents are automatically members of the Parents Association which is actively involved in organising many events in order to raise money for the school and to promote community links.

The Role of Governors

The Governors act as a "critical friend" to the school, monitoring and overseeing the smooth running of the school and supporting and listening to staff and parents. The

Governing body is responsible for the overall management of the school and for determining its aims, objectives and policies in accordance with all the relevant legislation. The Principal manages the school from day to day and is the Governing body's principal professional adviser who assists it with the formulation and implementation of its aims, objectives, policies and plans.

School Governors help schools provide the best possible education for their pupils by:

- thinking and working strategically to help raise standards;
- monitoring and evaluating progress towards the school's priorities and targets;
- supporting the Principal and staff as well as challenging their expectations;
- accounting to all stakeholders for the school's overall performance and for the decisions they have made.