

**Pastoral Care**

**Schedule for Developing, Monitoring and Review Policy**

**Approval by the Board of Governors:** August 2022

**The implementation of this** Principal

**Policy will be monitored by:**

**Monitoring and Reviewing:** Biennially, and as required following any change to provision.

The quality of Pastoral Care influences the development and tone of the whole nursery. It creates an atmosphere in which children feel secure, know that they are valued and are encouraged in their learning, and growth and social development within a healthy and safe environment. It will inform and reassure parents that their children are being educated in a safe and caring atmosphere.

Pastoral Care in Monkstown Nursery School is based on the principles of good relationships and mutual respect. We are acutely aware of the difficulties faced by our children growing up in the 21st century and the many influences that they encounter from society, even from such a young age. The Board of Governors, Principal and all members of staff have a responsibility for Pastoral Care.

Pastoral Care in Monkstown Nursery School will always be concerned with creating a caring, secure community in which every member feels valued, supported and happy.

Monkstown 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. Pastoral Care addresses social, mental, emotional and physical needs.

To achieve this end, Monkstown Nursery School promotes and encourages:

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

In Monkstown Nursery the pastoral care is based on the school’s aims. The staff at Monkstown Nursery, in partnership with parents and guardians, 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 the opportunity 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 visable:

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 positive behaviour policy (see separate policy for details).

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

All pupils are entitled to a broad, balanced curriculum adapted to their needs. At Monkstown Nursery 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 (see Special Educations Needs policy for details).

**BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT**

Monkstown Nursery School sets high expectations for behaviour and staff use positive behaviour management strategies. Our agreed ‘Sunshine Rules’ are clearly explained to the children and are displayed visually around the setting (see Positive Behaviour policy for details).

**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, Anti-Bullying Week and through the Personal Social and Emotional Development curriculum content (see Anti-Bullying policy for details).

**PARENTS / CARERS, COMMUNITY AND OUTSIDE AGENCIES**

Monkstown Nursery School recognises the paramount role that parents play in their children’s lives. We appreciate that the pastoral care arrangements will be more focuses 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, parent / carers will be presented with opportunities to become involved on 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 children until parents / carers arrive.

* Infectious disease

If a child attended with an infectious disease, parent / carers will be contacted by the Teacher / Principal and informed of the exclusion period. Parents / carers should inform the school about any infectious disease 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 with 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 (see Intimate Care policy for details).

**MEDICATION**

Should a child require the administration of medication during the school day, parental consent will be required to formally authorise this. Class Teachers will create medical Action Plans for all pupils on the medical register and these are shared with parents / careers and all pupils on the medical register are known to staff and students.

Monkstown Nursery is a nut free zone and all parents / carers have been made aware f this during the induction process.

We should hope that the work done in the nursery will influence the child in his/her own home, in future education and for a worthwhile role in society.

Other Related Policies:

* Child Protection Policy and Procedures.
* Intimate Care.
* Positive Behaviour.
* Anti-Bullying.
* Health and Safety.
* CRED
* Special Needs.
* Drugs education
* E safety
* Preventative curriculum

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

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