



**STRAIDBILLY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**PASTORAL CARE POLICY**

**Date Ratified: April 2025**

**Date Reviewed: April 2027**

Through the implementation of the Pastoral Care Policy and provision, we at Straidbilly Primary School will demonstrate our continuing concern for the personal and social development of all our pupils, regardless of their age or ability. The school will strive to develop our pupils as individuals and as secure, successful and fully participating members of the school and its wider community.

### **Rationale**

This policy has been formulated and implemented to provide effective pastoral care in Straidbilly Primary School in response to:

- The fact that a balanced, happy child will maximise their potential in school
- The effects of our pupils growing up in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Changing home backgrounds
- Family stability
- Child abuse and other child protection issues
- The changing attitudes and messages from society (towards sex, drugs, leisure, health, stress, on-line and social media influences)
- Bullying

### **Definitions**

Pastoral Care is defined as being the procedures and programmes by which the school endeavours to meet the social, spiritual, mental, emotional, physical and intellectual needs of all pupils in a safe environment, thereby allowing each pupil opportunities to reach his/her potential in every area of his/her life. This in turn facilitates each child to be equipped with the skills to cope with the 'outside world'.

### **Aims**

Through the Pastoral Care Policy in Straidbilly Primary School we aim to:

- Promote the general aims of school
- Create and maintain an atmosphere where pupils feel they are well known, happy, respected, valued and safe
- Respond sympathetically to the needs, worries and fears of our pupils
- Create a climate of mutual respect and trust which embraces all school members, children and adults
- Prepare children for the next stage of their education
- Promote high standards of behaviour
- Maintain the highest possible standards of teaching and learning

### **Ethos**

We believe our school ethos promotes:

- Christian values as guiding principles for life and living
- The uniqueness of each individual member of the school community
- Members of the school community being sensitive to the personal and pastoral needs of others
- Tolerance and respect of others different from us
- The provision of a safe, secure, happy and stimulating learning environment
- Care of the world around us
- Equality and inclusivity for all our pupils and staff

In Straidbilly Primary School we strive to ensure that all that happens in the school (curricular and extra-curricular) reflects the school ethos.

The school fully recognises that “A good ethos does not come about by chance: it is achieved by the principal and all stakeholders, promoting and facilitating an atmosphere of care and respect within the formal and informal life of the school community”.

## **Communication**

At Straidbilly Primary School, we realise that sound pastoral care is built upon the foundations of good relationships between parents, pupils and staff, between all staff members and between the school and the community it serves.

We believe that home-school links are vital to ensure pupils’ health and well-being, pupil achievement and personal development.

Communication with parents about their children’s personal development can be through both formal and informal means – parent/teacher meetings in October/ November and February, and a formal report in June. Parents may contact the school at any time to discuss concerns with the class teacher or principal.

Parents are welcome in our school and are encouraged to attend parent/teacher interviews, PTA and other school events.

Information is shared with parents and wider community via the school website, weekly newsletter and Facebook page.

## **Values**

At Straidbilly Primary School, the importance of reflecting our school values, form the core of the aims and ethos of the school being reflected in the pastoral care provision is recognised. The values have been identified and agreed by the staff and governors and are promoted throughout the school.

HONESTY	KINDNESS	CREATIVITY	RESPECT	PATIENCE
SELF-CONTROL	TEAMWORK	FRIENDSHIP	RESILIENCE	GENEROSITY

## **Self-Esteem**

At Straidbilly Primary School, the self-esteem and sense of self-worth of each pupil is vital to the development and learning of that child. Throughout the school this is fostered through:

- Frequent oral and written praise
- Through PDMU programmes
- Health & Well Being as part of School Development Plan
- Reward schemes – Star of The Week, Value Badges, Class Reward Charts,
- The celebration of work and other achievements in a variety of ways
- The provision of stimulating ability appropriate work
- Celebration assemblies
- Using Social Media to recognise achievements

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Governors of the school have overall responsibility for the pastoral care of its pupils. The principal and senior teacher will ensure that Pastoral Care is given appropriate consideration on the School Development Plan. The Pastoral Care Co-ordinator (Mr George) will monitor and evaluate the Pastoral Care Policy and practice, ensure that all staff are up to date and trained in pastoral care procedures and responsible for relevant resources within the school. All non-teaching staff should be trained in Pastoral Care. They assist their pupils to make informed decisions about 'right' and 'wrong'. They build up their pupils' self-esteem. They encourage their pupils to be appropriately self-assertive and to resist peer pressure. They are role models for their pupils.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Pastoral Care Policy, procedures and provision will be reviewed at staff meetings. Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they have any worries or concerns and if they need to share information which may have a bearing on the child's work or behaviour or well-being at school. The concerns of parents and children will be dealt with sensitively and confidentially and shared through the monitoring and evaluation process on a need-to-know basis.

Sims is used to monitor attendance, record noteworthy incidents. These may be discussed with DT as appropriate.

### **Staff Training**

Training of teaching and non-teaching staff will be the responsibility of the co-ordinator.

### **Resourcing**

Working within the constraints of our budget, the school is committed to the provision of any resources deemed necessary to facilitate the provision of Pastoral Care as outlined in this document. Relevant staff will attend available courses where possible.

### **Range of Pastoral Activities**

Pupils are supervised before school from 8.00am – 8.45am if they are attending Early Bird Breakfast Club. From 8.45am – 8.55am they are supervised by a teacher/CA in the playground on a rota basis. Our 'WrapAround Care' provision (2pm-5pm) is supervised by a Classroom Assistant. Pupils are not permitted to be in non-supervised areas of the building or grounds and must ask permission to leave a supervised area to go to the toilet.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Extra-Curricular activities are supervised by outside agencies, all of whom are vetted and have appropriate Public Liability cover. Pupils have the opportunity to participate in a range of after-school activities during the year - football, hockey, choir, multi-skills, ICT, art and gardening clubs, for example. After school activities and educational visits are carefully planned with a view to providing maximum safety and supervision. Parental consent for any out of school activity is always sought.

## **Pupil Induction**

To make starting school a little less daunting, pupils due to begin their education at Straidbilly Primary School in September have the opportunity to spend a half day in school in the June before they start. They meet their teacher, classroom assistant and their peers and spend time getting to know their classroom.

## **Security**

The school has a door security system which is switched on at the beginning of each school day. All visitors to the school must buzz to gain access to the main school building and record their details in a logbook. The school also has an internal telephone system allowing contact between all rooms and the mobile classroom.

## **Entering and Leaving School**

The school carpark has a strict one-way system. Children arriving at school by car may be dropped off in the car park. Parents are asked to use the parking bays on the footpath side of the car park so that no children walk through the car park. These pupils may enter only through the pedestrian gate and should cross over the zebra crossing, as should any children who walk to school.

At the end of the school day, all children are escorted to the crossing area, where they may exit via the pedestrian crossing and gate or walk on the footpath to the car park, where the same procedures as the morning apply. Parents are requested to collect their children from the footpath areas at the front of the school and escort them to their parked cars. Any children not promptly picked up after school are escorted back into the main school building by a teacher to wait until their parents arrive.

## **Data Capture Forms**

At the beginning of each school year parents are asked to complete one form for each pupil enrolled in the school. These give a variety of essential pastoral care information, including priority contact details and medical/ medication details. Parents also complete a range of permission slips to cover use of photographs, social media, use of sticking plasters and participation in school trips. Parents are asked to inform the school of changes in details immediately.

## **Sickness or injury**

This is dealt with by the class teacher and/or the staff trained in first aid.

If necessary parents or guardians will be contacted as soon as possible to arrange for the child to receive further care or to go home. Significant accidents are appropriately recorded on pupil accident forms and copies forwarded to EA. Parents are informed immediately of sickness/illness/head injury by telephone.

## **Absences**

Parents should inform the school of reasons for absences in writing or by telephone. Details available in the Attendance Policy.

## **Monitoring and Evaluating**

Both policy and practice are reviewed regularly as an on-going process during staff meetings. Daily observation by all staff and the communication of incidents keeps teachers aware of the effectiveness of the pastoral care provision.