



Pastoral Care Policy

This policy is intended to be read by teachers, teaching assistants, parents, governors, inspectors, support staff and staff from other schools with which we may have links.

Date Approved: March 2025

Date of Review: March 2027

Definition

The pastoral care system at St Luke's C of E Primary School is intended to meet the individual needs of our school. There are various ways in which pastoral care is implemented in school. Each child has the opportunity to reach their potential and is equipped with the skills needed to have a successful life.

Pastoral care addresses social, spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical needs.

Rationale

The quality of pastoral care influences the ethos and tone of the whole school. It helps create an atmosphere in which children feel secure, know that they are valued and are encouraged in their learning, growth and social development. Pastoral care is based on the principles of good relationships and mutual respect.

The Governors, Headteacher, and all staff have a responsibility for pastoral care and also for ensuring that they act as good role models.

Aims

- To help create an environment where children feel safe and contented
- To help ensure the all-round development of the child.
- To help children grow in self esteem, confidence and independence of thought.
- To communicate to our children values and beliefs that are in keeping with the school ethos.
- To help protect children from physical, social, and emotional harm and to equip them with the skills to cope with safety issues both in and out of school.
- To encourage tolerance, understanding, and sensitivity to the needs of others.
- To help promote warm and positive relationships between children, staff and parents.
- To enhance a child's capacity for learning by acknowledging and supporting their emotional needs.
- To help children develop and sustain mutually satisfying personal relationships.
- To become aware of others and to empathise with them.

- To enable children to develop psychologically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually.

Pastoral Support

Creative Play/Counselling Skills may be used as one part of the Pastoral Care programme on a one to one basis when it is suspected that the ability of the child to reach their potential is significantly impaired. Pastoral staff endeavour to facilitate an increased understanding and communication with the child to promote engagement in school life with a particular focus on raising self esteem, confidence, improving the quality of relationships and a sense of wellbeing.

Staff also encourage & promote parental engagement where appropriate and are able to signpost to a variety of services including in house support. Parents/carers will be consulted when the need for support has been identified and support will take place if the child is willing to participate

- Where staff have evidenced an inability for all round growth and development within the school environment, a need for one to one support may be identified
- All children should be seen in a comfortable and confidential environment
- Information disclosed will only be shared with others on a need to know basis and /or the child is in agreement
- Staff have a duty to report disclosed/evidenced Safeguarding issues to the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding lead.
- Creative Play/Counselling skills should be applied correctly and in order to ensure the child feels valued, worthy and accepted
- The Pastoral staff will work alongside the child's feelings and at a suitable pace
- Questions are only used for clarification and in order for the child to develop further their understanding of their feelings
- Pastoral staff do not seek to give advice or to change lives but to help with the identification of thoughts and feelings thus empowering children in this process
- Staff will liaise with parents/carers and headteacher when a further referral to outside professionals is deemed necessary
- Staff will monitor the individual needs of the child and keep appropriate records
- Staff will commit to updating practice by attending relevant training
- Staff will recognise the need for, and attend supervision when deemed necessary to enhance the quality of services

Conclusion

This policy is grounded in our school belief that each child has the right to reach their full potential, as unique creations of God. Pastoral care is fully integrated into the school's daily routines, the curriculum and extracurricular activities. All children should feel safe and happy.

