

St. Joseph's Grammar School

Scoil Ghramadaí Naomh Iósaf



Pastoral Care

Information for Parents

2015-2016

In St. Joseph's Grammar School Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life. In this school we pride ourselves on the pastoral ethos which exists. Through the pastoral care arrangements and provision, the school demonstrates its continuing concern for the academic, spiritual, moral, personal and social development of the pupils. By doing so we hope to assist each pupil to apply him/herself fully and confidently to the learning process and hence acquire the knowledge, understanding, values, attitudes and skills necessary for a successful and satisfying school experience and future life. We provide the opportunity for every pupil to develop into responsible, self-aware, confident and capable young people equipped to cope with the challenges of the 21st Century.

In particular, our staff aim to help:-

To promote the holistic development of the pupil

To develop in pupils a strong sense of their own dignity and self-esteem and a respect and esteem for others

To prepare them to become Christian citizens in the community

To develop their talents to the fullest extent.

The pastoral care of pupils is an integral part of the education programme of the school and the pastoral dimension permeates all school activities and is complementary to the academic work of the school.

The delivery of Pastoral Care is co-ordinated by a Pastoral Team, led by the Vice-Principal, Mrs A. Mc Gleenan, through a general and specialised focus.

General Focus: This requires a caring commitment by all teachers to guide and advise pupils on both a formal and informal basis on personal, educational and vocational matters.

Specialised Focus: This helps ensure that the Form Teacher has a detailed knowledge of the many individual needs, aspirations, interests and academic progress of each pupil in his/her form class. With this knowledge it is hoped this serves to integrate the worth of teachers, parents and others in supporting the learning development of each pupil.

A Year Head, supported by the Key Stage Co-ordinator and Senior Leadership Team, oversees the general welfare of all pupils in the Year Group and supports the Form Teacher at all times.

We also make available to pupils the help and support of a number of services and programmes including an Educational Welfare Officer, Medical Services, Social Services, Drug Squad, Careers Services, School Chaplain, School Counsellor, Love for Life programme, Mood Matters, PIPS, Menssana, Breakthru programme and a variety of internet and cyber safety awareness programmes - which combine to meet the varied and often complex needs of pupils. We ensure that any external agencies used to support our work with pupils adhere to the values and ethos of our school.

Personal Development Programme

The pastoral care of our pupils means responding to their needs at a period of their young lives when they are growing physically and acquiring a wide range of knowledge and skills.

Personal Development is fundamentally about the holistic development of our pupils. The Personal Development Programme is designed to provide pupils with the qualities, attitudes, values, knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for personal development. It also aims to facilitate the acquisition of social competencies and to encourage responsible social participation. The Personal Development Programme is delivered in a weekly timetabled series of lessons which have been planned in a progressive manner and is delivered by a core team of teachers. The programme includes topics, relevant to each year group, to enable our pupils to achieve their potential; become confident, independent and participative citizens; make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives

The topics for this programme, which may be added to in response to the needs of individual class groups, address the following ten key themes:-

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|-------------------------------|--|
| * Health and the whole person | * Self Concept |
| * Feelings and Emotions | * Morals, Values and Beliefs |
| * Managing change | * Managing influences and making decisions |
| * Learning about Learning | * Relationships and Sexuality |
| * Safety and Managing Risk | * Drugs Awareness |

Our Personal Development Programme also includes topics on personal safety for each year group which aim to develop the skills, values, attitudes, knowledge and understanding to help them resist or avoid potentially dangerous situations and to reject inappropriate behaviour.

Important elements of this personal protection education includes age related information on Sex Education, Internet Safety and Substance Abuse and Bullying.

The recording of pupils' achievements is an integral part of the programme in each year groups and all relevant information will be documented for inclusion in the pupils' summative Progress File, presented at the end of Year 12.

School Counselling Service

As there are many factors impacting on young people's lives today a counselling service is provided to support and empower young people at challenging times in their lives. The Department of Education in cooperation with Familyworks Schools Counselling Service provide the counselling service in school. It is provided weekly by a trained and experienced Counsellor. The service is non-judgemental, confidential and free.

Students are seen by appointment by self-referral or referral from a member of Staff or Parents/Carers.

Copies of the school Pastoral Care Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Drugs Education and Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy can be obtained by contacting the school office or by visiting the school website on <http://stjosephsdonaghmore.com>

Special/Individual Education Needs

In St. Joseph's Grammar School we aim to meet the educational needs of all our pupils within the framework of mainstream provision in the classroom. The progress of all our students is monitored on an ongoing basis. If difficulties are identified in consultation with parents the necessary support will be put in place to help the pupil in line with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

At St. Joseph's Grammar we believe in every pupil maximizing their fullest potential. Our gifted and talented students are encouraged to participate in extra qualifications and enrichment activities. Pupils from the Irish medium sector or who do not have English as a first language have access to specialist tuition.

Copies of the school Special Educational Needs Policy can be obtained by contacting the school office or by visiting the school website on <http://stjosephsdonaghmore.com>

Partnership with Parents

In St. Joseph's Grammar, we believe that the fostering of trust and good relationships with the Parents/Guardians of our pupils is very important. A close partnership between home and school should help ensure that all our young people learn and develop to their full potential in a caring, supportive and safe environment. Good communication is essential if we are to achieve this. We therefore urge parents and pupils to share any concerns so that effective solutions can be found as quickly as possible.

If you have any concerns about any aspect of your son's/daughter's education, please contact the school and an appointment will be arranged to meet with one or more of the following members of staff:

- Form Teacher/Subject Teacher

- Year Head

- Senior Teachers:

Mr N. O'Neill

Curriculum, Assessment & Timetabling

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mr P. Corrigan

Positive Behaviour & CEIAG

K.S.4 Co-ordinator

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mrs S. Mhic Giolla Cholaim (Ms S. Hughes Acting-Up 2015-2016)

Head of Scoil Iósaef, IMS

Head of Irish

KS3 co-ordinator IMS

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Ms C. Taggart

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mr P Quinn

K.S.3 Co-ordinator

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Ms. O. Goodwin

Head of Sixth Form

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

- Vice-Principal:

Mrs A. McGleenan

Pastoral

Designated Teacher for Child Protection

- Principal:

Mrs G. Donnelly

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

We would also encourage Parents/Guardians to attend our yearly Parent/ Teacher Meetings. In turn, members of staff are encouraged to keep Parents/Guardians fully informed regarding pupils' progress and development.