

Pastoral Care Policy

Mission Statement

Corran College, Ballymote, Co. Sligo, is a non-denominational second level school under the patronage of County Sligo V.E.C. Corran College, in partnership with the families of its students, provides an environment that educates in a Christian ethos and caters for the personal, moral, social, cultural, physical and career needs of each individual student.

Our mission statement is clearly rooted in a pastoral care type philosophy of education. It fosters the holistic development of each individual student and teacher within an atmosphere of care, concern and respect.

Rationale for this policy

Pastoral care is the energy of concern that underpins everything we do in school. Rooted in our Mission Statement, all aspects of school life from academic to spiritual, social to cultural as well as physical and emotional development of students is our concern.

To value and develop each member of the school community and promote learning at every level for the student.

Goals for this Policy

- To foster a happy school environment
- To care for the individual student
- To develop the full potential of each student
- To develop mutually supportive staff relationships which contribute to a good atmosphere in the staff room
- To encourage a sense of social justice within the school community
- To establish and maintain a good rapport between school, community and home

Roles and responsibilities

1. Board of Management and School Management

The Board of management and senior school management take responsibility:

- To ensure that the policy is developed in consultation with teachers, pupils, parents and the community.
- To ensure that the policy is effective, implemented, practiced, made explicit and reviewed in conjunction with Child Protection Guidelines.

2. Principal and Deputy Principal

- To provide leadership towards building community, i.e. Using interpersonal skills to bond B.O.M., staff, students and ancillary staff.
- Students are encouraged to take part in all activities, social, academic, sporting, musical etc.
- Academic and endeavour achievements are awarded each year.

3. Pastoral Care Team

- The Pastoral Care Team includes Class Tutors, Guidance Counsellor, SPHE, Home Economics and Biology teachers.
- All teachers take responsibility in respect of their duty of care to all students.

4. Year Head/Class Tutor

- The teacher who, on behalf of the school community undertakes the role of caring for a class group in order to promote learning and the holistic development of each individual group.
- Liaises with principal, Deputy Principal, other staff and parents on a regular basis.
- Creates a positive atmosphere within year group thus promoting the welfare and development of students
- Organises and runs assemblies and inducts new students.

The tutor has specific duties for example:

There will be a 10 minute roll call each morning. The purpose of this time is to:

- Mark attendance
- Check notes re absenteeism etc.

- Check uniforms
- Provide a conduit for the flow of information i.e. teacher-student, student – teacher

Building Community

All new students will be welcomed and an induction session provided. Many of the following activities will be provided for students. These will vary from year to year but there will always be a number of such activities in any given year.

- Lunchtime activities
- Group projects
- Outings/tours
- Sports
- Drama
- Carol service
- Graduation mass
- Choir
- Hospital visitation
- Sponsored walks
- Newspaper in the classroom
- Participation in charitable events e.g. Concern Fast, S.V.D.P.

Care for the Individual

- Contact system through tutor, R.E., S.P.H.E., Home School Community Liaison Officer, Career Counsellor and Project Worker - SCP.
- Learning needs and difficulties particularly catered for through learning support, book grants and extra support system for provision of students needs.
- The interests of students will be broadened through retreats, study skills programmes and awards systems including Presidents Awards, Green Schools Award, Healthy Schools Award.

Nurturing of Staff

Corran College provides a caring and nurturing environment for all staff. This includes the induction of new staff, staff outings, school

tours, social committee activities and the celebration of notable events.

Home/ School/ Community Links

Many means of communication are used to link with the community including the following:

- Home School Community Liaison Officer
- Parents Association
- Board of Management
- Links with feeder primary schools e.g. visits (yearly) and liaison with former teachers where necessary/appropriate
- The business community through work experience
- Visiting speakers/project work
- Newsletters and Newspaper in the Classroom
- Competitions e.g. Credit Union Art Competition
- Fundraising projects e.g. S.V.D.P., sponsored walks.

Implementation and Review

The Principal and Deputy Principal, in consultation with the Pastoral Care Team take responsibility for the implementation of the Pastoral Care Policy. The policy is reviewed annually.