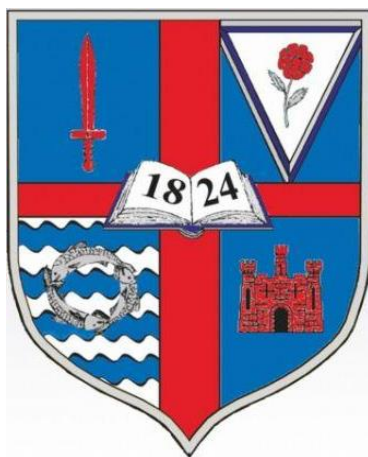


Macosquin Primary School



PASTORAL CARE POLICY

‘Together as a school family, we are committed to nurturing and **motivating** our children, enabling them to reach their full **potential** and **shine**- today and in the years ahead!’



The Pastoral Care dimension of our school is of paramount importance and involves all children and adults who participate in the daily life of the school. As a team, we place strong emphasis upon creating a nurturing, positive and supportive environment where all children are encouraged to “Motivate their Potential to Shine”.

Our School Ethos

At Macosquin the pupils are at the heart of our school. Our team of dedicated staff provide a positive, caring and child-centred environment which recognises uniqueness and celebrates success in every child. We firmly believe that our approach will self-motivate, aiming to inspire a love of learning, unlocking the potential that lies within all our children; preparing them to be happy, successful and responsible citizens now and in the future.

Our school vision for every child is:

‘Together as a school family, we are committed to nurturing and **motivating** our children, enabling them to reach their full **potential** and **shine**- today and in the years ahead!

Community Aims and Core Values

As a School Community we aim to achieve our vision by developing the following below. Our **School Council** has chosen **Core Values** which will help all our pupils to live our school vision and Shine! These are displayed in bold after each aim.

1. Positivity and Well-Being...Ensuring self-esteem, health and happiness are at the core of our pupils' education and that our pupils gain the strategies needed to maintain their well-being throughout their lives. **Health, happiness and Well-Being**
2. Opportunities, Interests and Talents...Giving our pupils the opportunities and experiences to develop existing interests and discover new ones. **Develop your Talents**
3. Teaching and Learning for Tomorrow...Providing high quality teaching and learning, motivating and equipping our pupils with the knowledge and skills necessary for our ever changing world, in line with the N.I Curriculum and every child's needs. **Aim High**
4. Equality, Diversity and Respect...Creating a learning environment, where everyone feels safe and secure in the knowledge that their voice, beliefs and traditions are acknowledged and respected. **Respect and Value**
5. Nurture the Whole Child...Promoting the development of each child intellectually, socially, morally, emotionally and spiritually ('Spiritually' – equipping the children with a code of Christian principles.) so that they can achieve their full potential. **Nurture and Care**
6. Teamwork and Togetherness...Fostering, valuing and encouraging in our pupils' friendship and teamwork and building within our school strong partnerships with parents and our local community. **Together we can Achieve**
7. Independence and Responsibility...Teaching each pupil to be responsible for themselves, for others and as environmental guardians of our world. **Be Responsible**

8. Aspirations and Attitude to Succeed...Developing an environment of self-belief and determination, where each member of our school community knows that they can aspire, succeed and achieve their goals.

Believe in yourself and Persevere

9. Love of Life and Learning...Developing in our pupils a passion and understanding for life and learning which reaches beyond the classroom and into adulthood. **Love to Learn**

Our Pastoral Care provision aims to:

- Provide a happy and nurturing environment in which each child feels safe and secure as they develop.
- Encourage positive relationships at all levels within the school community ensuring everyone feels valued and respected in an environment of openness and trust.
- Nurture and celebrate children's success and achievements to build self confidence and self-esteem by realising their potential and providing support to overcome any barriers to learning.
- Encourage pupils to contribute positively to school life, take responsibility for roles within our school and through active participation in councils and decision making.
- Develop a strong sense of identity within our school family with high levels of engagement.
- Set high standards for behaviour, attendance, punctuality and to enforce these consistently for the good of all.
- Maintaining, nurturing and valuing partnership with parents and the wider community and outside agencies.

Implementation of Pastoral Care Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

Teacher

The class teacher in the first instance will be alert to the pastoral needs of his/her pupils with subsequent referral to the Principal.

Minor difficulties, worries or upsets involving any child in the playground will be dealt with by the member of staff on duty, with more serious incidents of concerns about a child's behaviour, health or welfare being referred to the class teacher.

The teacher will:

- help pupils make informed decisions about issues through PATHS programme;
- build up self-esteem and self-identity;
- model and embed our school core values and aims; and
- promote effective teaching and learning in a caring, positive environment.

- encourage pupils to listen to and be tolerant of others
- deliver personal health and safety programmes as part of the curriculum

Non-Teaching Staff

Non-Teaching Staff:

- will be trained in the suite of pastoral care policies on a yearly basis.

Principal

The Principal will ensure:

- the provision for Pastoral Care is included in the school development plan;
- the policy is reviewed and updated regularly; and
- training of the Teaching and Non-Teaching staff is arranged.

Training needs will be met both by school based professional development and attendance at external courses as appropriate.

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator (Mrs Allen) will:

- monitor the implementation of the policy;
- co-ordinate and monitor the personal safety programme;
- ensure resources are updated and available for staff;
- ensure that Pastoral Care issues are allocated time on staff meeting agendas; and
- ensure that parents are given and complete the relevant Pastoral Care information, Induction packs for new pupils contain the relevant policies and the Pastoral Care Checklists are given to and completed by parents for each child.

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors have overall responsibility for the Pastoral Welfare of all the school community.

Parental Liaison

The school recognises the prime importance of regular, effective communications with parents as a sound basis for Pastoral Care.

With our Seesaw App, parents are also kept informed of their child's learning only. Our website and regular information for parents also ensure effective links between home and school.

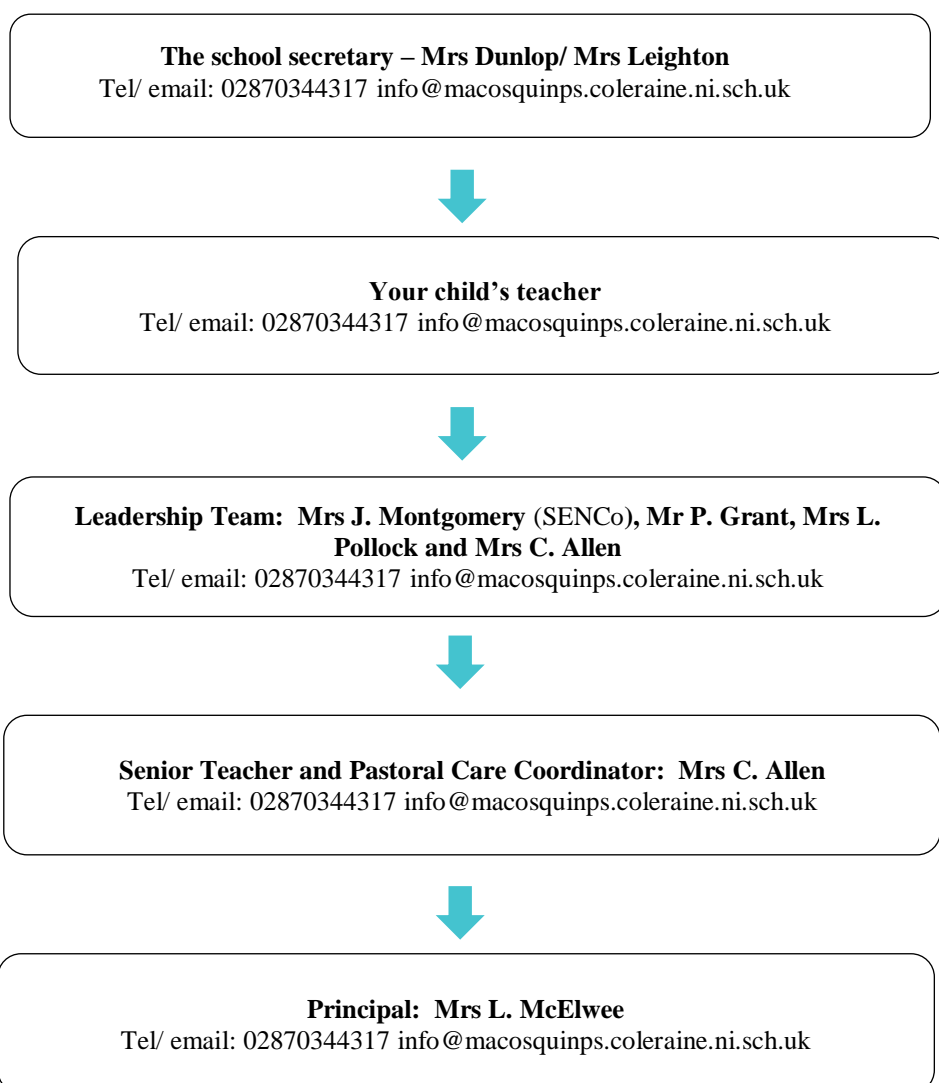
At the beginning of every school year, Health and Safety information, a Safeguarding summary, Pastoral Care Checklists and a consent form for Shared Education are made available to parents/ carers.

We encourage parents to share concerns about home circumstances or medical matters which may affect their child's work or behaviour in school. Any discussions are held in confidence if desired or necessary. An early interventionist approach will be adopted when a problem is affecting the welfare or progress of a child.

Parents have an opportunity to discuss pupil progress during parent/teacher interviews held twice yearly.

Parents are always welcomed and encouraged to contact the school office if they have any concerns or worries. We welcome communication with our staff. Parents / carers can do this by contacting staff as outlined below:

Communication Chart



Outside Agencies

As a school, we maintain a close working relationship with the various outside agencies involved in the care of children. These include the Literacy Teaching Support Service, the Educational Psychologist, the Educational Welfare Officer, the MASTS Team, Social Services, the School Nurse and the Police.

Our links with the Police include regular talks and discussions about online safety, road safety and bullying. The Year 7 pupils participate in 'Operation Streetwise' and 'RADAR'.

Records

Observations on a child's all-round development will be included in the annual report issued to parents. Staff will be encouraged to familiarise themselves with this information as appropriate.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy will be reviewed yearly. Changes will be implemented as required or following guidance from the Department of Education.

Range of Pastoral Activities

Our responsibility for pastoral care extends to all activities and contexts which are part of school life both curricular and extra-curricular e.g.

Extra-curricular Activities, Educational Visits, Team Building Challenges, Community & Safety Education Programme, Whole School and Key Stage Assemblies, PATHS Programme and PDMU Health and Safety lessons.

Induction of New Pupils

The school values every pupil and considers it especially important that new Year 1 pupils feel valued and cared for right from their first day of school. The Induction of new pupils in June gives the children an opportunity to meet their teacher and peers informally and ensures that their parents are informed of issues regarding to Pastoral Care. Induction packs are given to parents and all relevant pastoral care policies are accessible on the school website under 'The Parents' Area' including Pastoral Care Policy, Child Protection Policy, Managing Positive Behaviour Policy, Anti-bullying Policy and Online Safety Policy.