



KNOCKBREDA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pastoral Care Policy

Ratified by the Board of Governors: March 2026

Review Date: March 2029

Pastoral Care at Knockbreda Primary School is a priority. In Knockbreda Primary School we endeavour to promote a safe, stimulating, and positive environment to ensure that everyone can develop the personal and social skills necessary to thrive within the school community and beyond.

The Pastoral Care Policy supports the school in promoting a caring, supportive environment in which staff and pupils can work in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Pastoral Care in Knockbreda is based on the principles of good relationships, the staff are acutely aware of the challenges and influences that children may encounter in their daily lives.

At Knockbreda Primary School, we recognise that central to the success of our pastoral care provision is the involvement of parents and outside agencies within the community. We strive to work in partnership with them to achieve our aims.

We believe that when pupils have a range of opportunities to contribute to, and participate in, the framework of school life, they are more likely to show self-confidence, consideration for others, interest in what they are doing and pride in themselves and their school. As such pastoral care permeates all aspects of the curriculum and school life.

What is Pastoral Care?

‘Pastoral Care has been defined as concerning the personal relationships which influences the ethos and tone of the whole school. It is of crucial importance in creating an atmosphere in which young people feel secure, knowing they are valued as individuals and are encouraged in their learning, growth and social development in a healthy and safe environment.’

T.J. Shaw, Chief Inspector, Evaluating Pastoral Care. DENI 1999.

School Ethos

Knockbreda Primary School aims to provide a positive and purposeful environment for pupils in which young people will experience the best possible learning opportunities so that they are well prepared for life. Central to this is the uniqueness and value of each individual. Knockbreda prides itself in promoting a caring, family atmosphere and an inclusive ethos where all children are encouraged and nurtured to reach their full potential. We provide an integrated environment for our pupils, welcoming and valuing children from all religions, cultural and social backgrounds.

We aim to

- provide a safe, secure and caring learning environment in which the pupils and staff work together as a team and feel supported, valued and members of the school community;
- instil in our pupils a sense of personal worth and intellectual, moral and spiritual development;

- encourage our pupils to have a sense of personal accountability for their own actions and learning;
- empower our pupils in building and monitoring good relationships with pupils and staff;
- promote an appreciation of life and respect for the world in which we live;
- help pupils to realise that Knockbreda Primary School is a community in itself and also part of the larger community so that they develop positive attitudes and behaviours towards themselves as well as in their social relationships with others;
- promote the school's Positive Behaviour Policy which respects the rights and responsibilities of staff, pupils and parents/carers;
- provide pupils with the personal, social and life skills necessary for a successful fulfilling and happy future;
 - ensure pupils feel secure, happy and understand they can confide in staff regarding personal issues and concerns

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors play a very active role in the management of the school and the pastoral care of all the children is at the centre of all their decisions. The Principal and Designated Teacher informs governors of Pastoral or Child Protection issues. The Board of Governors of Knockbreda Primary School sees its role with regard to Pastoral Care as follows:

- To ensure it is effectively meeting its statutory obligations.
- To ensure that the safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff in Knockbreda is safeguarded and promoted.
- To ensure that roles, responsibilities, procedures and practices of the school are clear to all and are implemented systematically and consistently.
- To ensure through effective monitoring and evaluation that further developments and training issues are addressed

Role of the Class Teacher

- Have a clear understanding of the vision of the school in respect of its children, its community and its point of development.
- Promote a caring environment where children's learning is developed within the context of their individual needs and abilities.
- Avail of opportunities for professional development.
- Establish appropriate structures of support for those in need.
- Be aware of the children's individual "backgrounds" and experiences and individual "needs and aspirations"

- Foster relationships where children feel happy, secure and find staff approachable at all times.
- Work alongside the SENCo or Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator for support, when necessary

All staff in school have a responsibility to ensure the pastoral care needs of all children are being met.

Parents

In Knockbreda Primary School we value the close collaboration with parents and encourage active participation by parents in all aspects of school life in order to promote a positive home-school attitude. We encourage parents to bring any areas of concern to the class teacher's attention. Parents are also invited to come to school for Parent/Teacher interviews twice a year at which time the child's progress and behaviour inside and outside the classroom can be discussed. P1 induction meetings are held in June to inform new parents of our Pastoral Care and Child Protection Policy.

The Parent Teacher Association, in conjunction with the school organises events for children and the Parent Teacher Association committee liaises regularly with the Principal to ensure that these events are practical and successful. The relationships which develop between staff and parents are vital if children are to succeed.

Outside Agencies

Knockbreda utilises the support of many outside agencies including

- Education Authority
- RISE NI
- NSPCC
- Barnardo's
- EA REACH project
- Love for Life
- Family Support Hub
- EA Educational Psychology Service
- Autism Advisory Intervention Service

Provision:

- The Designated Teacher with specific responsibility for pastoral care is Mrs N Sayers, she liaises with parents, outside agencies and other school staff. Ms S McLean is the Deputy Designated teacher for Child Protection.
- The Safeguarding team is made up of Mrs N Sayers, Ms S McLean, Mrs L Waugh (BOG)
- Staff members are kept informed about personal issues regarding families within the school community which may affect the behaviour and/or attitudes of the children
- Members of staff consult regularly to ensure the continuing safety and well-being of the children

- Pupil's achievements are recognised and valued throughout the school in a variety of ways including: classroom and whole class rewards, pupil of the week certificates presented in whole school assembly, displays of children's work, photos/reports in local newspapers, pupils sent to Principal or other Senior Staff for rewards,
- The school makes it a policy not to reward on the basis of academic ability alone, but also for effort, courtesy, kindness and other special skills
- The self-esteem and independence of pupils is encouraged by developing musical, artistic, dramatic and sporting skills through a range of after school activities and the use of outside agencies
- Residential visits take place in Years 5, 6 and 7, which encourage further development of social skills and independence.
- School uniform is worn to give children a sense of "belonging"
- Regular PDMU lessons carried out in each class
- PATHS lessons carried out in each class
- House System – children in P4 – P7 allocated a house and take part in a variety of competitions to earn house points. They can also earn house points during the school day.
- Prefect System – P7 pupils are awarded prefect badges and carry out many duties throughout the school.
- Period Dignity Policy
- Pupil of the Week and Line of the Week

Related Policies:

This policy does not stand alone it should be considered along with our following policies ;

- Safe Guarding Policy
- Addressing Bullying Policy
- Relationships and Sexual Education Policy
- Period Dignity Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Drugs Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- PDMU Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy