**St Francis’ Nursery Unit**

**Pastoral Care Policy**

**Introduction**

The ethos of a school should reflect the extent to which the school promotes the spiritual, moral, intellectual, personal, social and emotional development of all its children.

Pastoral Care is looking after the whole development of the child in a positive way. This enables children to cope more effectively with learning in school and to develop skills and attitudes, which enable them to understand themselves and help develop relationships with others.

**Purposes of Pastoral Care Provision**

- To create an environment of care and trust.
- To ensure that children feel secure and free from emotional and physical harm.
- To facilitate the development of good relationships between teachers and children and among peers.
- To involve parents and outside agencies as early and as positively as possible, in relation to any difficulties which may arise.

**Principles of St Francis’ Nursery Pastoral Care Policy**

**Ethos**

In our Nursery Unit, we the staff:

- Endeavour to create a friendly, open relationship between all children and all staff.
- View each child as unique and therefore treat each of them as an individual, with individual needs, regardless of gender, race, culture, religion and special needs.
• Encourage all the children to become involved in all areas of play, in all activities, in all routines and in all aspects of nursery life, and so help them to achieve their full potential.
• Work together as a team, always valuing and supporting each other.
• Endeavour to have an open, friendly, supportive working relationship with parents/carers, always recognising that they are their children's first educators, who know their children very well.

**Classroom Atmosphere**

We the staff aim to:
• Foster mutual respect between children and staff.
• Instill in our children a high standard of behaviour that will hopefully be evident in our Unit. Staff will be fair, firm, consistent and compassionate in our approach to keeping good order in each class.
• Value every child and every opportunity will be taken to praise the children's work and efforts and we will encourage the children in all they do.
• Provide a range of activities and involve all the children in them both indoors and outside, therefore all the children should experience some measure of success with the variety of opportunities presented.

**Parental Partnership**

We in St Francis' Nursery Unit:
• Endeavour to encourage good communication between staff and parents/carers. This is of prime importance.
• Will inform parents/carers of their children's progress on a regular basis and also should a problem or concern arise. There will be early intervention if a problem is affecting the welfare or progress of child. We regard co-operation and openness as essential elements in the relationship between parents/carers and staff.

**Observations and Records**

Relevant observations of each child's progress and development will be made on a regular basis and noted accordingly. These observations will be used to inform planning so that each child's needs and interests are addressed and catered for.
Roles and Responsibilities

1. Each teacher, namely and Mrs McNeice, Mrs Grew & Miss Harvey will be responsible for the children in her care.
2. The Principal, Miss O'Dowd has overall responsibility.

Lines of communication are constantly kept open between Nursery Teachers and Assistants who work together as a team and between Teachers and the Principal and Vice Principal, who value the teaching and learning taking place in the Nursery. The teachers in our Unit also value a positive working relationship with our SENCO’s who we liaise with closely regarding our children who have Special Educational Needs, so ensuring that we provide a quality experience and education for these special children that is suited to each of their individual needs.

When a child is ill or injured, parents/cares will be contacted immediately by the school’s secretaries. It is the policy of our school to act in the best interests of the child, giving reassurance to the children and parents/carers at all times.

Our Nursery Pastoral Care Policy is an extension of our Nursery Aims and Whole School Aims and there are indeed elements of Pastoral Care in all areas of the Pre-School curriculum, especially in the area of Personal, Social and Emotional Development.