Enniskillen Royal Grammar School

PASTORAL CARE AND CHILD PROTECTION

Information for Parents

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PASTORAL CARE

We in Enniskillen Royal Grammar School recognise that there is a caring dimension to school life and we aim to provide a safe and supportive environment where each young person in school for his or her unique talents and abilities and in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential.

Pastoral Care has a general and a specialised focus and requires a range of approaches to meet the needs of all the pupils in the school.

- **Needs of the pupil as a member of the school community**
  This relates to the general ethos and quality of relationships within the school. All staff and pupils need to feel valued for their individual contribution to school life and the school seeks to provide opportunities and structures to enable everyone to develop a sense of belonging to the school.

- **Needs of the pupil as a learner**
  Pastoral Care in the classroom involves adapting the learning environment to the needs of individual pupils so that each one has the maximum chance of success regardless of background or general ability. In separate pastoral teaching programmes is delivered alongside the subject teaching in the forms that one will complement the other).

- **Needs of the pupil as a young person**
  Staff work to keep in mind the needs of pupils as they work their way through adolescence within the context of their individual family backgrounds. Some pupils will need particular support on key facts such as family pressures or health difficulties. We actively seek to make them aware of who they can talk to if they are sad, worried, being bullied or have any other concerns. Individual work with pupils may involve the Form Tutor or a particular subject teacher, a Year Head, a Head of Key Stage, a senior member of staff or more specialised counselling support within the school. On the rare occasions pupils may need to be referred to external agencies such as medical services, social services or child protection services. In such case, parents will be consulted and the procedures implemented by the Principal, Deputy Principal or Senior Teacher.

PASTORAL SYSTEM

At present the school operates a horizontal year group system with pupils assigned to a Form Tutor in a form group. In Years 8-12 pupils are assigned for as possible to a Form Tutor who teaches them.

ROLE OF FORM TUTOR

The is seen as the crucial role within the pastoral system. The aim is that the Form Tutor should gain a detailed knowledge of the needs, emotional development, progress and academic attainment of each pupil in their form and should be supported by and be responsible to the Year Head and through them to the Head of Key Stage who in turn works closely with the Pastoral Senior Teacher and Principal. Time is set aside for Form Tutors to carry out individual review interviews with the pupils in their form at designated times in the year.

CHILD PROTECTION

The school's Child Protection Policy can within these schools in an within the context of the school's general aims which include the following: "to create an environment where each member of the school community, pupils and staff alike, feels safe valued and respected for their contribution".

The aim of the policy is to protect all pupils by ensuring that all those who work in the school are fully versed and aware of their duty of care and well informed about the procedures for reporting concerns where the abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. The central principle, which has the support of the staff, is that each pupil has a fundamental right to be protected from harm. Accordingly it is the responsibility of all the staff in the school to do what is in its power, in all the circumstances of any case to safeguard and promote each pupil's welfare and safety in the knowledge that pupils cannot learn or develop effectively unless they feel secure.

In all their contact with pupils, staff will follow the guidelines and principles laid down in the Department of Education publication 'Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools' (2017). The following principles form the basis of the school's child protection activity.

- pupils should be listened to and taken seriously
- in any situation the pupil's welfare is paramount
- a proper balance must be struck between protecting pupils and respecting the rights and needs of families but where there is conflict the pupil's interests must always come first