

Pastoral care policy

At Hope Nursery School pastoral care is viewed as the creation of an ethos and environment where children, parents, carers and staff not only are, but also feel safe, secure, respected and valued. The School's Pastoral Care Policy is comprised of various sections and related Appendices, each dealing with a specific aspect of care, safety and protection, both for children and adults.

It is our belief that safety, security and respect for all can best be achieved in a context of sound and trusting relationships. Accordingly, a genuine attempt is made to foster meaningful and mutually respectful relationships among children, parents and staff.

Children:

For the children, the pastoral dimension permeates and is experienced through every aspect of the curriculum. In planning and delivering the curriculum, staff strive continually to ensure that each child feels safe, secure, accepted, loved and valued.

This is achieved by:

- a) Ensuring, through collaboration with parents, a successful settling in period;
- b) Identifying and responding to children's individual characteristics, interests, abilities, circumstances and needs ;
- c) Adopting a caring, tolerant and sympathetic attitude to all children and encouraging them to adopt a similar attitude to each other, thereby ensuring that no child feels threatened by the behaviour of another.

Parents:

At the earliest possible stage a deliberate attempt is made to begin building firm relationships between parents and staff. The Board of Governors also seek to develop sound relationships with parents.

Every attempt is made to ensure that parents feel welcome, that their contribution to their child's education is recognised and valued, that they feel sufficiently confident to approach and trust the staff and that they understand and respect the role of each member of staff.

Parents are encouraged to share in total confidence with their child's teacher any changes in the home situation which may affect their child. They are also strongly encouraged to share any specific concern which they or their child may have, regardless of how trivial that concern may seem.

We firmly believe that a positive and confident approach on the part of the parents will transfer to the children and contribute to their sense of well being.

Staff:

As a source of information and guidance, all staff have had opportunity to discuss and contribute to the various sections of the Pastoral Care Policy, including necessary codes of conduct.

All members of the school staff work as a team, yet they have respect for each other's roles, responsibilities and personal circumstances. Despite the significant demands of providing nursery education for fifty two children, every attempt is made to maintain an atmosphere which is positive, purposeful, yet calm and relaxed.

Through constant observation staff seek to identify any possible indicators of concern or distress among the children. These may be manifest in overt crying but may also be evident in changes of mood, behaviour or response to the curriculum.

It is our aim that knowledge of and adherence to the school's Pastoral Care Policy will result in a school community where everyone - children, parents, carers, staff and visitors - will feel welcome, secure, respected and happy.