



## Presentation Brothers College Pastoral Care Policy 2012

### AIM:

1. Presentation College is a Catholic school founded in the tradition of Edmund Rice by the Presentation Brothers. Here our school community is based on the principles of Respect, Care, Tolerance, Compassion and Justice. The aim of this document is to show how Pastoral Care is an important dimension in the school. We seek cherish, support, respect, nurture and encourage each member of the school community.
2. Presentation College is an active Christian community where the intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical development of each person is encouraged.
3. This is set out to fulfil the legal requirements of the Educational Act and to complement the school mission statement.
4. Each member of staff has a role to play in the pastoral care of students, within the class, and school environs. Within Presentation College there is a Pastoral Care Team that liaise with the staff body to ensure this policy works. This team include the Deputy Principal, senior Career Guidance Teacher, Chaplain, Learning Support Unit, SPHE Coordinator, and Staff liaison Person.
5. The Team will meet on the second Monday of each term. They liaise with class teachers and year heads to red flag any student experiencing difficulties.

### Outline:

Through our Pastoral Care Policy we strive :

- To base all aspects of school life on Christian principles.
- To create and maintain an atmosphere where all feel valued, and respected.
- To maintain the highest standards of education.
- To implement the code of discipline in an atmosphere of trust and care
- To respond in an empathic way to concerns, fears and anxieties of our pupils.
- To promote the physical, mental and emotional and social well being of all pupils through the teaching of SPHE and other subjects.
- To promote the spiritual and moral development of the students through RE and faith formation.
- To promote healthy relations between all school staff, students, and the wider community.

- To promote the self-worth of each member of this community by providing space to grow and learn in a caring environment.
- To mentor Leaving Cert students

### **SPHE Co-ordinator**

S.P.H.E. is taught in the school up to Junior Cert level to promote the following:

- Belonging and integration
- Communication skills
- Physical health
- Friendship
- Relationship and sexuality
- Emotional health
- Decision making
- Substance abuse
- Personal safety.

### **Career Guidance Counselling**

#### **Role**

- It is the role of the Guidance Counsellor to ensure that each student has access to appropriate guidance in school.
- This Guidance is offered on both an individual and group basis.
- It includes personal, social, educational guidance.

#### **Aims**

- It aims to enable and empower student to take responsibility.
- To help students develop an awareness of their talents and abilities.
- To encourage a healthy sense of self by means of promoting a personal, educational, social and moral development, in accordance with the Mission Statement of Presentation College, and at all times open to consultation with parents.
- To provide direction and key information with the aid of subject choice and individual guidance through assessments, career lectures, visiting colleges and general career information.
- To support both student and parent.

### **Learning Support Unit**

The LSU aims to bridge the gap between a learning difficulty and the potential of a student.

Most of the work is done on a one to one and group bases.

#### **Aims**

- Meet the special educational needs of students with learning difficulties.
- Communicate with teachers about students in their classes that have special educational needs.
- Support parents of students with special educational needs.
- Assess students and refer to Educational psychologists or other specialists as the need arises.

- To co-ordinate teaching hours and technical needs of SEN students and the SENO appointed to the school.
- Liaise with Management, Chaplain, Guidance and teaching staff as the need of each student arises.

## **The Chaplain**

The Chaplains' role is as a faith presence within the school.

### **Aims**

- To organise the liturgies within school term,
- Support students and staff on their faith journey.
- Maintain links with local church community.
- Counselling individuals and refer them to other professionals if necessary.
- Organise various speakers on related topics, e.g. suicide.
- Run various programmes like Drug Awareness, Suicide Awareness within the school for students.
- Check in on students who are ill or in hospital.
- Help with Share and Pres-link Activities.
- To Red-flag any student in difficulty and consult the appropriate agency.
- To be available to staff and student as a listening presence in the school.
- To help organise regular meetings between Class Teachers, Year heads, Management and the Pastoral Care team.
- To liaise with the Guidance Team to promote the personal, social and mental well-being of all staff and students.

## **Staff Liaison Person**

- To liaise with staff and put forth issues that are staff related to the Care group.
- To lead the induction of new members of staff, including part-time teachers and H.Dip students.

***OTHER STAKEHOLDERS WHO HAVE A ROLE IN THE AREA OF PASTORAL CARE WITHIN THE SCHOOL INCLUDE;***

## **Class Teacher**

- The class teacher is the first port of call for the student in any difficulty.
- They are the closest to the class and maintain a strong relationship with their class throughout the school year.
- In certain cases they routinely refer students on to the chaplain, career guidance teacher.
- They maintain contact with each student's parents.
- They meet the class each week to check in with them.

## **Student Council**

The Student Council has a very important role to play in the area of pastoral care. The council gives students a voice in development of policy. This forum allows its members to liaise with other partners within the school community.

### **Parents' Council**

The Parents' Council offers valued support to the school community in numerous ways.

- Organising Parents nights.
- Being available to chaperone speakers on educational nights.
- Fundraising.