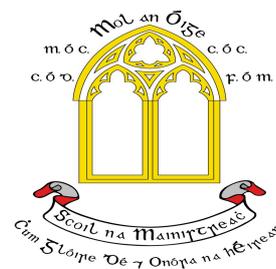


ABBEY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Donegal Town



PASTORAL CARE POLICY

School Pastoral Care is an approach to education which endeavours to value and develop each member of the school community. It also supports and promotes learning at every level of the student.

Abbey Vocational School recognises the importance of its pastoral policies, structures, procedures and practices. This pastoral approach is infused by the guiding ethos of the school as expressed in our mission statement.

Rationale/Mission Statement

Abbey Vocational School is dedicated to the holistic development of students in a caring environment where tolerance and respect are nurtured and valued.

Pastoral Goals in the Abbey Vocational School

1. To promote an environment which values, develops, cares for and meets the needs of each student.
2. To create an environment where students are valued and respected regardless of any aspect of their identity, including sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
3. To nurture the talents and abilities of each student in a positive environment of teaching and learning.
4. To monitor and evaluate progress at every level.
5. To acknowledge and support the role of each person in the life of Abbey Vocational School.
6. To enable the care team to identify vulnerable students and support them appropriately.

Policy Content

Pastoral Care permeates the daily lives of students and staff. In implementing our pastoral care policy we will continue to foster a caring atmosphere into the future. We have a system of form teachers, year heads, care team and support structures as outlined below.

Form Teachers

Each class is placed in the care of a form teacher who takes a special interest in the well-being of each child in the class. As part of their role the form teacher will:

- Encourage students to be fully involved in all aspects of school life and avail of the opportunities for them within the school.
- Meet with their class grouping as often as possible.

- Check student journals weekly.
- Liaise with members of staff regarding students in their class grouping.
- Liaise with the Year Head and care team on any concerns that they may have regarding students in their class grouping.
- Insert positive comments on record cards for each student at the end of the school year.

Year Heads

Year Heads work closely with parents and students in such areas as:

- Addressing the needs of vulnerable students.
- Implementing the code of behaviour.
- Reviewing academic and other progress of pupils.
- Absenteeism and punctuality.
- Support of families with difficulties.
- Liaising with care team.

Roles and Key Responsibilities

While the most significant role in the Pastoral Care System is undertaken by the Form Teachers and the Year Heads, they are supported in meeting the ever-changing needs of the pupils by the Care Team comprising of the Guidance Counsellor, Teachers of Religion and Learning Support co-ordinator. A member of the team has been appointed co-ordinator. It seeks to examine ways that Pastoral Care can be realised in our school. It develops strategies to assist pupils in need.

Guidance Counsellor

- To provide support to students where their personal and emotional needs can be met.
- To devise educational programmes and assist students with career information and career choices for their futures.

Religion Teachers

Have particular responsibility for the spiritual and pastoral well being of all students in order to help them reach their potential holistically.

Learning Support Co-ordinator

- Foster respect for all learners and openness to the different ways people learn.
- Promote pride and ownership of their leaning among students and endeavour to foster equitable distribution of learning support hours as required.

Care for Teachers

Pastoral Care also provides opportunities for on-going personal and professional development for teachers.