



# **Sligo Grammar School**

## **Pastoral Care Policy**

The Pastoral Care Policy is inclusive and supportive of the whole school community.

### **Mission Statement**

Sligo Grammar School aims to promote excellence in an inclusive and supportive community that reflects Christian values, where each member is enabled to achieve his/her full potential in life and in learning

### **Relationship to school Ethos / Mission Statement**

Pastoral Care should permeate all aspects of school life. The policy should support and strengthen the implementation of the school Mission Statement and be a physical enactment of its Christian values

### **Preamble**

The personal development of pupils is a core value of Sligo Grammar School. We believe that teachers care for their pupils and that education takes place in a genuinely caring atmosphere. This policy applies to the whole school community and the set of relationships that exist within that community and management, pupils, teachers, ancillary staff and parents. We also have become involved with those other social and health service agencies which engage with families in the welfare interests of young people

### **Rationale for Pastoral Care Policy**

Pastoral Care is an integral part of the mission and ethos of Sligo Grammar School. This policy creates a formal structure to ensure its effectiveness within the community that is Sligo Grammar School on a daily basis and at times of individual and corporate need.

## **The Aims of the Pastoral Care Policy**

1. To create and maintain an atmosphere where all members of the school community feel they are well known, safe, valued, respected and happy.
2. To promote the aims and Christian ethos of our school.
3. To nurture teaching and learning relationships that are based on mutual respect.
4. To positively encourage the inclusive and democratic nature of our school.
5. To implement our code and practice of behaviour considering the views of all members of the school community.
6. To show that the school will not tolerate bullying.
7. To clarify the roles and responsibilities of all partners of the education process creating strong and collaborative leadership.
8. To inform parents, pupils and staff of the supports available to them
9. To respond in a supportive way to the concerns, fears and worries of our pupils.
10. To support pupils in times of special needs e.g. Bereavement, personal difficulty, family illness etc.
11. To promote the holistic well-being of each pupil through Guidance, SPHE, RSE, RE and whole school faith forming activities.

## **The Pastoral Care Programme includes the following supports, events and opportunities:**

- Pastoral Care Team; Form Teachers; School Co-ordinators; Matrons; Chaplain; Learning Support Team; Student Council; Boarding Staff
- School Guidance Counsellor
- Additional Pastoral Supports:  
  
Open Day; Induction Day; Study Skills; Mentoring Programme; Outside Agencies; Themed Whole-School and specific class /group activities; Student training; staff training; Review Meetings (Pastoral Care Team and Staff Meetings).

- Information Meetings including anti-bullying workshops
- Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)
- Meetings with outside Mental Health agencies (Headstrong, Moodswing etc.) and with the Home-School Liaison Officer and Social Services

**Apart from this policy the school has a number of policies which support the Pastoral Care of the pupils**

- Mission Statement
- Admissions Policy
- Anti Bullying Policy
- SPHE & RSE Policy
- Critical Incidents Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- SEN Policy
- Homework Policy
- Guidelines for Protection of Children
- Substance Abuse Policy
- Acceptable Usage Policy -Internet
- Constitution - Student Council
- Constitution - Parent Association
- Counselling Policy and Guidance Plan
- Extracurricular Policy –presently being developed
- Student Expectations
- Health and Safety Policy
- Administration of Medication Policy
- Management of Infectious Diseases Policy
  - Dignity in the Workplace Policy

## PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The full Pastoral care team will meet regularly throughout the year and as need arises.

Principal and Deputy Principal	Overall responsibility for the management of the school
Guidance Counsellor	Guidance and Counselling
Senior Coordinator	Responsible for the management of discipline and welfare in 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> years
TY Coordinator	Responsible for the management of discipline and welfare of TY Programme 4 <sup>th</sup> year
Junior Coordinator	Partial responsibility for the management of discipline and welfare in 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> years
SENCO Coordinator	Responsible for the Special Educational Needs of the pupils
School Chaplain	Responsible for the spiritual and pastoral care and development of the school's pupils.
School Matron / Assistant Matron	Responsible for the care, welfare & medical needs of the pupils.
Housemaster & Housemistress	Responsible for the care of the Boarders & the Boarding Houses

### Raising Concerns

As a "telling school" students are encouraged to discuss problems about themselves or others with any member of the school staff. Staff may then refer these problems to a member of the Pastoral Care Team, which includes the Counsellor, or to another appropriate member of staff.

Written 2014

Passed by BOM 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Due for review : November 2016