

## Scoil Ruáin Pastoral Care Policy

The Pastoral Care Policy encompasses the whole school community. Pastoral care should permeate all areas of school life.

In Scoil Ruáin we facilitate the development of all members of our school community. In our school community we foster relationships based on respect. We engender a sense of belonging to our school community where each individual is valued and his/her uniqueness is recognised. We promote a school community that is caring and positive. This work will be carried out in an environment that is both safe and secure for all in our school community. We believe Pastoral Care is the responsibility of the entire school community.

Relationship to School Mission Statement:

Through the implementation of this Policy we strive to enact the stated Mission, Vision and Aims of Scoil Ruáin. We value all in the school community and endeavour to develop each member of the school community.

Rationale for Policy:

Pastoral Care is an integral part of our mission in Scoil Ruáin and as such it needs a formal structure to ensure its effectiveness in our school community on a day by day basis and particularly at critical times. In Scoil Ruáin we believe Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life.

Goals of the Policy

That each member of the school community will:

- Feel valued and cared for
- Be developed to his/ her full potential – spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically, socially, personally and aesthetically
- Have a sense of belonging to our school community

Roles and Responsibilities

The Pastoral Care Team has the responsibility to draft this policy in consultation with the staff, students, parents and management of the school. The Draft Policy will then be reviewed by all parties before being sent to the Board of Management and then Tipperary ETB for formal ratification.

Implementation of Policy

Board of Management

The BOM will ensure that the ethos and values of the school are reflected in the formulation and implementation of this policy.

Principal & Deputy Principal

The Principal & Deputy Principal will work to ensure that our school is primarily a caring community. The management is committed to supporting all those involved in the pastoral

care programme in Scoil Ruáin. The management makes time available to meet parents, staff and students in a supportive atmosphere. The management facilitates in house staff development and encourages participation in external associations, programmes and courses particularly when those programmes/courses have a direct influence on student learning.

All School Staff:

Due care and respect will form the basis of all dealings the staff may have with all members of the school community and visitors to the school.

Chaplain:

The School Chaplain will work with the staff in providing spiritual and pastoral care to the whole school community and will communicate at all times with the Principal, Deputy Principal, Guidance Counsellor, Year Head, Class Teacher and Parents on all relevant matters relating to students.

Classroom Teachers:

Teachers conduct classes in a structured and ordered environment. The relationship fostered in the class is based on mutual respect. The classroom teacher deals with situations that arise in class and in more serious situations the teacher refers the student to a Class Teacher, Year Head, Deputy Principal, Principal.

Critical Incident Team

The Critical Incident Team is made up of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Chaplain, Guidance Counsellor and members of staff.

Guidance Counsellor:

The Guidance Department provides a wide range of services including, educational guidance, personal development and counselling, aptitude testing. The Guidance Counsellor is available to meet with students in class groups or for individual consultation with students and with parents on matters relating to career advice and possible personal difficulties.

Parents Association

Scoil Ruáin has a vibrant Parents Association who contribute to policy development in the school. Through their involvement the PA show their commitment to student welfare and development. The Parents Association contributes to various programmes in the school.

Religious Education Teachers

The RE teachers deliver the RE Programme to all students in the school

The Student Council – Student Council Liaison Teacher

The student council is a representative structure for all the students in the school. It provides the students with the opportunity to become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with school management, staff and parents. It should always work for the benefit of the school and its students.

The Student Council will always work in consultation with school management.

The Student Council has responsibility for:

- Working with the staff, BOM and PA in the school
- Communicating and consulting with all of the students in the school
- Involving as many students as possible in the activities of the Council
- Planning and managing the Council's programme of activities for the year
- Managing and accounting to the Student Council and BOM for any funds raised by the council,

SPHE Programme

SPHE teachers deliver the SPHE programme (one class per week) to the Junior Cycle students. The aims of the SPHE programme are:

- To enable students to develop skills for self fulfilment

RSE programme: