



**Title:**

Pastoral Care

**Scope:**

The whole College community

**Link with the College's Mission Statement:**

There is a fundamental link between Coláiste an Eachréidh's Pastoral Care and the College's mission statement in which "every effort is made to create a safe, secure environment in which to provide education that focuses on the academic, social and cultural development of the pupils."

**Philosophy:**

The teachers and pupils in Coláiste an Eachréidh are the basic concern of the College's Pastoral Care which contributes to the creation of an atmosphere that is helpful, stimulating and positive.

**Aims and Objectives:**

- The creation of an attentive environment so that each member of the school community feels worthwhile, important and respected.
- To facilitate the effective development and learning of pupils in a safe and attentive environment and to remain vigilant so that any problem that a student may have is detected and that appropriate support and assistance is offered.
- Offering a Pastoral Care Structure that will enable the pupils to get help, support, advice and inspiration.
- The creation and the affirmation of strong linkage with the home and of support for parents.
- The provision of specific programmes to support pupils in times of difficulty, for example death (see Crisis Management Policy, p 53 Handbook)
- Encouraging parents to work with the College to further the welfare of the pupils and to inform the College about difficulties that may be affecting the student's life.

## Policy Content:

- A specific induction day for first-year students in September. The students and their parents will meet with the Head Teacher, (the Pastoral Coordinator) and with the Class Heads. A talk will be given on study skills and parents and children will be asked to sign a short learning contract. An induction Handbook will be provided to the College's teaching staff which will contain basic information about the College, the various policies and the College's systems.
- Extra classes (depending on College resources) will be provided to pupils who have specific problems.
- Support and advice will be provided to pupils who need support. Teachers will be apprised of such pupils and a small library of booklets will be set up dealing with topics such as death and parental separation. The policies of the College will be brought to the students' attention. Workshops will be organised and speakers invited to the College to support students.
- If the appropriate support is not available to a student in the College itself, parents are encouraged to get help outside the College.
- Self-confidence and self-respect are of great importance. In this context, students are encouraged to participate in every facet of College life to attain a full education.
- Educational tours will be a regular activity in the life of the College. Day tours will be organised to Petersburg adventure centre for junior students and senior students will have an opportunity to do various courses in different recreational activities (Transition Year).
- The current College curriculum will be reviewed regularly and changed as necessary. When a selection of subjects are offered, students will be advised, in consultation with their parents and teachers, to focus on subjects that suit their abilities.
- Students will be encouraged to report any incidents of bullying or harassment and any such report will be dealt with discreetly and sensitively. Both students and parents will be aware of the College's anti-bullying policy.
- Every report of abuse will be investigated and the appropriate authority will be informed if necessary. The College will work closely with the Health Board in relation to students/families at risk. (See the Childcare Policy).
- Every effort will be made to cater for students with a physical disability, e.g. a wheelchair.
- Students will be encouraged to look out for each other and this will be facilitated particularly through the Pastoral System in the College.
- The College will provide support to parents to set up a Parents Council in the College which will contribute to the creation of firm links with all the parents of the College.
- A number of development days will be organised for the College staff.
- All efforts, achievements and work for the furtherance of the College will be recognised at a Celebration of Achievement.
- Students will be encouraged to participate in secondary College activities, such as debates, Slógadh, drama, sporting activities and competitions, the Trócaire/Concern fast, the St. Vincent de Paul food collection, toy collection for the Third World—various projects that focus on people who are in need.
- Every class will be given an opportunity to participate in spiritual events by visiting an appropriate venue or inviting guest speakers or priests to visit the College. College events such as the Celebration of Achievement will be organised every year.

## **Responsibilities**

- The Head Teacher, the Pastoral Coordinator, Class Teachers, the Students' Council and SPHE Teachers will participate in the pastoral structure of the College.
- There will be a Students' Pastoral Structure in which the Students's Body, Class Heads agus the Coordinator of the Pastoral System will participate.
- The following will be responsible for the Pastoral System:
  - (a) Parents—acceptance of the policy and participation in workshops
- The Vocational Education Committee—financial support.
- The Students' Council and the Pastoral Structure as mentioned above in number one

## **Quality Indicators**

The policy will be succeeding if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (a) The pupils are satisfied, feel safe agus secure from danger and they attend regularly as specified in the discipline policy.
- (b) The pupils and staff succeed in working in an atmosphere that is free from bullying and harrassment.
- (c) The pupils progress academically and have an opportunity to develop their full potential.
- (d) Disiplinary problems are minimised agus suspension is seldom required.
- (e) The curriculum is appropriate and enables every pupil to achieve excellence according to their ability.
- (f) The majority of pupils continue to the Leaving Certificate.

## **Monitoring Steps:**

- The Pastoral Coordinator and the Class Teachers will carry out regular monitoring and will liaise with the Head Teacher.
- Pastoral Care will be on the the agenda of every staff meeting.
- Every first-year and fourth-year student will be given an assessment questionnaire after Christmas concering Pastoral Care.
- The Class Teachers will discuss the College reports with the pupils and they will gain valuable feedback from these concering the College's Pastoral Care.

## **Review:**

At the end of the first year and yearly thereafter, the Pastoral Coordinator, the Class Teachers and a number of pupils and parents will carry out a review of the Pastoral Care policy.

## **Time Frame:**

- Draft policy made available to staff meeting on 26 August 2011.
- Submitted to the Board of Management—first term 2011.
- Put into effect first term 2011.