

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
St. Attracta's Junior National School
Meadowbrook
Dundrum
Dublin 16

www.stattractasjns.ie
stattractasjns@gmail.com



— *Tús Maith* —

PASTORAL CARE STATEMENT

June 2015



ST. ATTRACTA'S JUNIOR NATIONAL SCHOOL
STATEMENT ON PASTORAL CARE IN OUR SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION

In keeping with our mission statement, St. Attracta's Junior National School is committed to working in partnership with parents to develop each *individual* child; while valuing high academic achievement, the social, personal and moral development of our pupils is of primary importance as we strive to enable each child reach his/her potential; to be the best he or she can be.

As a *Junior* Primary School, whose children are four to eight years of age, we are particularly conscious of the importance of the early years in school and the huge value of and need to ensure that school is a happy, secure and fulfilling environment for each and every child; hence our school motto, "*Tús Maith*" ("a good start") and the strong emphasis we place on excellent pastoral care, early intervention and supporting pupils, staff and parents.

RATIONALE

The school is a microcosm of society and is now significantly responsible for nearly all aspects of the development of the young person. Therefore, in St. Attracta's Junior School we believe that quality Pastoral Care is essential to the creation of a supportive atmosphere for every member of the school community.

In St. Attracta's Junior School we facilitate the development of all members of 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 her/his uniqueness is recognised. We promote a school community that is caring and positive. This work is carried out in an environment that is both safe and secure for all in our school community. However, if quality pastoral care is good practice and evident amongst the adults in the school community, in particular the staff of the school, it is believed that this in turn will transfer to excellence in pastoral care of our pupils, parents and all visitors to our school.

Pastoral Care is the responsibility of the entire school community:

- Board of Management
- Principal
- Individual class teachers
- Support Teachers
- SNAs
- Parents
- Caretaker & Cleaning Staff
- Secretary

- Individual Parents / guardians
- Parents Association
- Chaplain

Society in Ireland is changing rapidly; hence, there is a greater need than ever to ensure that we have meaningful and effective Pastoral Care in our school. Children require all the skills necessary to deal with the many and varied influences they are exposed to daily, such as, family, education, peer pressure, and media.

Pastoral Care is part of and fundamental to every aspect of our school's life and activities. The essence of this statement is evident in, and is only complete, when implemented in conjunction with all our policies, practices and procedures.

VISION

As a school community we strive to live, model and promote the gospel values of respect, trust, love, concern and compassion, openness, freedom, forgiveness, truth, justice, commitment, beauty, wonder, joy and faith in our interactions with each other, with pupils, parents, and visitor to our school. These values are central to and underpin everything we do.

We work to build a school community where everyone is given a voice and where respect for self and others prevails. Positive relationships between pupils, teachers, parents and other members of the school and parish community are central to our mission.

We work conscientiously to enable each child develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, values and attitudes to become active, independent and responsible members of society.

AIMS

- ◆ **For Pupils:** pastoral care that nurtures personal dignity, a sense of well-being and a sense of belonging so that pupils are guided towards self motivation, self discipline, responsibility and responses based on the gospel values outlined above
- ◆ **For Staff:** pastoral care that provides personal support, professional interaction, a sense of belonging and a sense of vocation so that each person is able to develop spiritually, personally and professionally through mutually beneficial relationships

- ◆ For **Parents**: pastoral care that provides personal support in their role as the primary educators of their children; whose views and wishes will be heard and respected to enable us to support their children's learning

Pastoral Care concerns for all members of the school community are evident in all our school policies, practices and procedures, but particularly so in the following:

- ◆ *Administration of Medicine Policy*
- ◆ *Anti-Bullying Policy*
- ◆ *Assessment for Learning Policy*
- ◆ *Attendance Policy*
- ◆ *Child Protection Policy*
- ◆ *Complaints Procedure for Parents*
- ◆ *Enrolment Policy*
- ◆ *Equal Opportunities Policy*
- ◆ *Harassment, Sexual Harassment & Bullying in the Workplace*
- ◆ *Health & Safety Statement*
- ◆ *Homework Policy*
- ◆ *Marketing in Schools' Policy*
- ◆ *Parental Involvement Policy*
- ◆ *Procedures for Lunchtime Parents*
- ◆ *Procedures for Parent Teacher Meetings*
- ◆ *Procedures for Supervision & Lunch Breaks*
- ◆ *Procedures for the Induction of New Pupils & Parents*
- ◆ *Procedures on the Assembly & Dismissal of Children*
- ◆ *Relationships & Sexuality Education Policy*
- ◆ *Safety Procedures for S.E.N. Pupils*
- ◆ *School Tours Policy*
- ◆ *Substance Abuse Policy*
- ◆ *Support Teaching Policy*
- ◆ *Whole School Behaviour Policy*
- ◆ *Whole School Food Policy*
- ◆ *S.P.H.E. Policy*
- ◆ *S.E.S.E. Policy*

THE EXPERIENCE OF PASTORAL CARE FOR ALL THROUGH QUALITY RELATIONSHIPS

For us, respect is the key component. Each person is special and unique. Each person, adult or child, irrespective of gender, race, or culture is given equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of school life

We aspire to all staff, pupils and parents demonstrating attitudes and values which reflect the gospel values of our vision statement.

We believe that the behaviours and attitudes which are set out below enable our school to be a cohesive community in which all members are afforded respect and encouraged to engage meaningfully with others

FOR STAFF

When relating to each other, staff will:

- ◆ demonstrate interactions with staff members that are characterised by respect, courtesy, openness, flexibility, availability and good humour
- ◆ support one another
- ◆ accept and affirm each other, recognising each individual's uniqueness, talents and professionalism
- ◆ make every effort to get to know one another
- ◆ foster a sense of belonging
- ◆ respect the privacy of others
- ◆ celebrate in appropriate ways, the achievements of staff members

When relating to pupils, staff will:

- ◆ listen
- ◆ offer advice
- ◆ believe that every pupil can and will achieve
- ◆ be aware of the strengths and areas for development
- ◆ be fair, consistent and positive in their approach to discipline
- ◆ see mistakes as part of the learning process
- ◆ respect individual differences and privacy
- ◆ foster resilience in pupils
- ◆ promote pupil initiative
- ◆ demonstrate genuine care for the physical, social and emotional needs of pupils
- ◆ promote a positive sense of self in each pupil
- ◆ promote a climate of acceptance and tolerance
- ◆ promote rights and responsibilities
- ◆ encourage pupils to be aware of and appreciate the efforts of others
- ◆ foster in pupils sensitivity and respect for all members of the community
- ◆ endeavour to understand the family circumstances of pupils
- ◆ provide safe practices and a safe environment for all pupils of the community
- ◆ model those actions, attitudes and behaviours which they expect of pupils

When relating to parents, staff will:

- ◆ be approachable and willing to listen
- ◆ invite parents to take an active role in the life of the school
- ◆ establish an atmosphere of honesty and professionalism in their dealings with parents
- ◆ inform parents of their child's progress and areas of concern
- ◆ work with parents in supporting their child
- ◆ be sensitive to the diversity of our parents
- ◆ be sensitive to and understanding of parents in times of crisis - e.g. family illness/death/separation

FOR PUPILS

When relating to staff, parents, visitors, and each other, pupils will:

- ◆ be approachable and willing to listen
- ◆ be accepting and tolerant
- ◆ be courteous and well-mannered
- ◆ show respect, responsibility and sensitivity for all members of the community
- ◆ demonstrate school pride
- ◆ be helpful
- ◆ listen attentively
- ◆ work cooperatively and contribute to a cohesive and positive community
- ◆ act responsibly with regard to safety and learning
- ◆ consider their actions and the consequences these actions could have on others
- ◆ see mistakes as part of the learning process
- ◆ be aware of and appreciate the efforts of others

FOR PARENTS

When relating to staff, parents will

- ◆ be approachable and willing to listen
- ◆ be respectful in their dealings
- ◆ inform staff of any matters of concern relating to their child
- ◆ work with staff to support them in their role
- ◆ respect the privacy of staff
- ◆ be open to honest communication in a non-threatening manner
- ◆ be aware of and appreciate the efforts of others
- ◆ follow appropriate procedures as set out in "***Complaints Procedures***" to achieve a positive outcome for all
- ◆ show respect and sensitivity for all members of the community

When relating to pupils, parents will

- ◆ model acceptance and tolerance
- ◆ listen attentively
- ◆ foster respect
- ◆ be aware of and appreciate the efforts of others
- ◆ if volunteering in the school parents will respect the confidentiality of any matters they hear or see
- ◆ not engage directly with any pupil other than their own child, regarding any concern they may have

When relating to each other, parents will

- ◆ support one another
- ◆ accept and affirm each other
- ◆ make every effort to get to know one another
- ◆ foster a sense of belonging
- ◆ respect the privacy of others
- ◆ demonstrate interactions characterised by respect, courtesy, openness, flexibility, availability and good humour

This statement on Pastoral Care was written in consultation with all the partners in education and was ratified at a meeting of the Board of Management on 23rd June 2015. It acts as a constant point of reference for all policies, procedures and practices both now and in the future.

It will be reviewed from time to time. It is available to all partners in education on the school website and will be part of the Policy Booklet issued to new Parents on enrolling of their child in St. Attracta's JNS