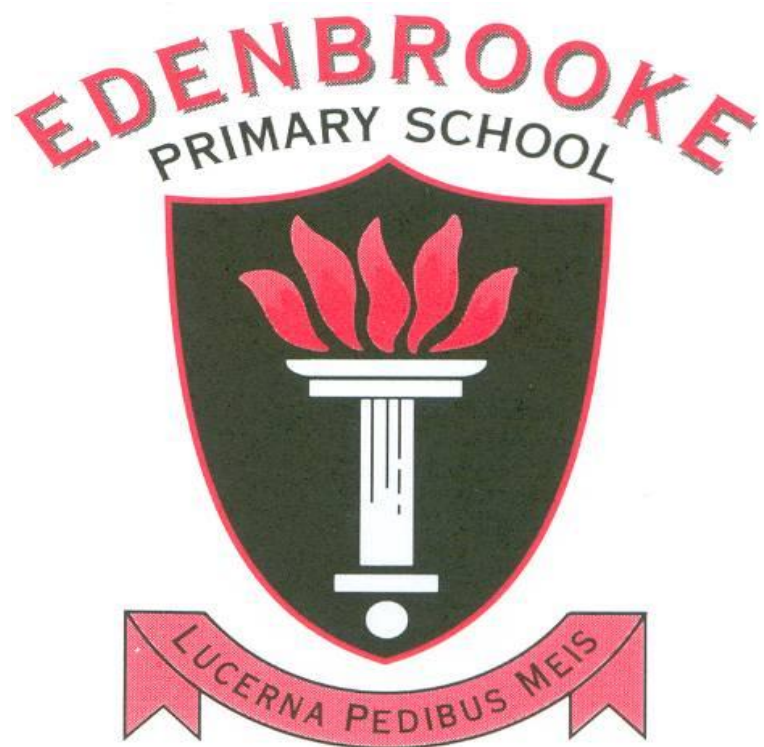




Pastoral Care Policy

At Edenbrooke Primary School we are committed to providing a caring, supportive environment in which staff and pupils can work in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

We believe pastoral care is integral to the ethos of our school and underpins all aspects of school life.

Our aim is to nurture the personal, social, emotional and academic development of each pupil in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum and Safeguarding legislation.

All staff at Edenbrooke Primary School are aware that a positive ethos does not come about by chance; it is achieved by the Principal, the School Leadership Team and all the staff, promoting and facilitating an atmosphere of care and respect within the informal and formal life of the school community. In its booklet "Evaluating Schools", the Inspectorate (ETI) describes a positive ethos as one in which:

- The pupils' confidence and self-esteem are promoted;
- They are encouraged to value one another
- They show a strong sense of belonging to the school as a community.

We recognise that central to the success of this is the involvement of all staff, parents and other outside agencies within the community. We strive to work in partnership to create an environment in which our pupils can thrive.

Aims

- Promote the wellbeing of all pupils in a supportive environment
- Instil in the pupils a sense of personal worth and intellectual, moral and spiritual development
- Foster positive relationships between staff, pupils and parents
- Provide support for pupils who may experience difficulties in school or home
- Encourage the development of self-esteem, resilience and emotional intelligence
- To encourage a sense of personal accountability for their own learning and actions
- Ensure early identification and intervention for pupils in need of additional support.

Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Governors:

- Oversee the implementation and review of the policy
- Participate in training as appropriate

Designated Teacher for Child Protection:

- Coordinates safeguarding
- Liaises with external agencies

School Leadership team:

- Support staff in their efforts to achieve the aims of the Pastoral Care Policy
- Assist in the monitoring, evaluation and review of the effectiveness of this

Pastoral Care Team: Includes the Safeguarding team, Nurture team, SENCo and support staff

- Meet regularly to monitor wellbeing
- Develop interventions where appropriate.

Class Teachers:

- Ensure that learning takes place in a happy atmosphere within the classroom
- Encourage pupil motivation
- Employ a range of teaching strategies in response to pupils' perceived needs
- Give pupils responsibility for some of their own learning
- Provide pupils with appropriate tasks which challenge and stretch them
- Through praise, recognition and displays of pupils' work, promote a sense of achievement
- Ensure that knowledge of home circumstances and other relevant information is passed on to the Designated Teacher
- As appropriate liaise with the parents/carers, Principal, Vice-Principal, SENCO, and/or the Designated Teacher for child protection

Parents:

- Work in partnership with the school to support their child's wellbeing
- Be involved in their child's education by support and encouragement of the child's learning at school and at home
- Ensure that their child attends school regularly and punctually
- Ensure that their child is prepared for school both physically and emotionally
- Inform the school of any factors which may affect their child's progress and wellbeing
- Support school policies in relation to pastoral care

Supporting Policies

Whilst all policies and procedures within the school take cognisance of the pastoral care of pupils and staff some specifically support it in very specific areas.

This policy is linked with the following school policies which include

- Child Protection
- Behaviour
- Intimate Care
- Special educational Needs
- Use of reasonable Force
- Anti-bullying
- Relationships and Sexuality Education
- Drugs
- Attendance
- E-Safety
- Acceptable use of mobile phones and related technologies

Whenever these are completed, they will be published on the internet and parents will be informed of their content. Cross referencing the policies is essential in delivering the pastoral care policy.

Inclusivity

Edenbrooke Primary School supports the fundamental principle that every pupil is entitled to be educated. In ensuring this we ensure that pupils' individual needs and the collective class needs are identified and supported to ensure they continue to feel part of the school community.

Liaison with Parents

We see ourselves as partners with parents in the education of pupils. Mutual support and co-operation is an essential element in achieving our objectives. On-going activities to ensure communication and parental involvement include:

- Regular parent/teacher meetings (curricular)
- Parent's Evenings (information)
- Prospectus, newsletter, letters
- Annual Progress Report
- Sporting events
- Fundraising activities
- Extra-curricular activities
- Musical shows

Staff Development and Training

Pastoral care remains a permanent feature of our School Development Plan and subsequently staff development and training are considered essential to support this. Our on-going development programme helps teachers identify the attitudes, values, skills and knowledge which will enable them to carry out their pastoral roles.

On-going training in interpersonal skills, counselling skills and teaching methods which engage pupils actively in their learning. Training programmes are organised through:

- On-site courses
- EA courses
- Award-bearing and non-award bearing courses provided by other bodies

Staff Welfare

It is recognised that care of staff is vital to ensure that stress and low morale do not jeopardise the success and prosperity of school life. At school level the promotion and development of staff welfare and development is an obvious responsibility of the Board of Governors, Principal and School Leadership Team but it is also the mutual responsibility of all colleagues in school.

Resources

To ensure the implementation of the policy the Principal ensures that adequate resources are made available and that time will be made available to develop the programme throughout the school.

Liaison with External Agencies

We are committed to developing good working relationships with relevant external support agencies to enhance, protect and support individual pupils' and teachers' social and emotional welfare.

Developmental Needs of Pupils

Cognisance is taken of the needs of pupils as they develop and change during their time at school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring

On-going monitoring is an integral part of our policy. Checklists are drawn up and procedures are discussed at regular staff meetings to ensure that the policy is implemented as planned. Support is given to those teachers who require assistance in carrying out any aspect of their pastoral role.

Evaluation

Evaluation procedures are in place to discover ways of improving the quality of provision in the school for the benefit of all pupils and teachers.

All aspects of the policy are evaluated on an-going basis with parents', pupils' and staff views being requested through questionnaires, informal interviews and focus groups. Whilst Pastoral Care team have overall responsibility for evaluation, self-evaluation is a feature of every teacher's role. This feedback forms the basis of our staff development programme for the year.

