



St Paul's RC Primary School

Pastoral Care System Rationale

The Pastoral Care system was established at St Paul's School in September 2013. The aims of the scheme are:-

- To raise the self esteem of all children in the school
- To encourage children to communicate effectively with others and to build up good relationships
- To recognise that everyone is different and to celebrate that difference
- To provide positive role models
- To allow children to feel safe in expressing their own thoughts and opinions and encourage them to make responsible choices
- To give children the skills of conflict resolution and to help them with strategies for dealing with their own feelings and emotions
- To improve behaviour and attitudes to learning in all areas of the curriculum.
- To help develop children to become self aware, caring and responsible citizens

Although Pastoral Care is given its own slot on the timetable it permeates into all areas of school life. During Pastoral Care lessons children are given opportunities for Speaking and Listening and there are also links with RE, Art and DT.

Our Pastoral Care system is based on a similar one run at St Laurence's RC Primary School, Birkenhead and also St Mary's Primary School in Grangetown, Sunderland. Having visited St Mary's in May 2002 the scheme was established at St Laurence's in September 2002.

In September 2013 the scheme began at St Paul's. All the children from F2 to Year six are divided into five groups and each assigned a Pastoral Care teacher. There are two or three children from each year in every group and they have been grouped according to friendships. Wherever possible, siblings are not placed in the same group. Lessons take place every Wednesday afternoon between 2.00 and 3.00.

The lessons for the afternoon are planned so that all groups are covering the same objectives. Teachers are free to change the activities within the lesson as long as the learning outcomes are the same but by and large, most stick to the activities suggested. Because everyone has covered the same objectives, teachers can, if they wish, elaborate on the topic at other times during the week in a more age specific way.

Topics covered include:-

- I'm special – raising self esteem, celebrating own qualities
- Recognising special qualities in others
- Celebrating difference – empathy, valuing the opinions of others
- Friendship – trust, caring, sharing
- Feelings – our own and other's emotions
- Anger – dealing with our own anger, reacting to anger in others
- Behaviour – how our behaviour can affect others
- Teasing – that unkind teasing is bullying behaviour
- Bullying – what is bullying, how can you deal with it?

- Problem solving – communication and negotiation
- Team work – co-operating with others, listening skills

Within each group the children have chosen a buddy. They sit as buddies within their Pastoral Care Group during lessons, assembly and Mass. There are various advantages to this. The older children feel a sense of responsibility and enjoy partnering a younger child. The younger children see modelled behaviour and realise what is expected of them. The older children go to collect the younger ones and bring them to their groups for Pastoral Care. There is much “hero worship” between our four year olds and the ‘big children’.

The children work in Pastoral Care groups during retreats and run fundraising events for the Cafod during Lent. We also run a Pastoral Care sports day where the children sit in their groups, compete against children from their class and gain points for their group.

The School Council is formed from the Pastoral Care Groups. Children from Years 5 and 6 were invited to put their names forward if they would like to stand for election and to give a short presentation to their group. All children voted within their Pastoral Care Groups for two representatives to the Council. Children attend meetings and report back to their own group, thus all the children have a voice.