



School Motto
God shines within our hearts.
Jesus walks by our side.
The Holy Spirit gives us strength.

Trust vision
Growing in faith, serving with love.
Transforming our world ; together in
Christ.

St. Mary's New Mills Pastoral Care Policy

Introduction

At St. Mary's New Mills, our approach to pastoral care is rooted in the values and virtues chosen by the children, which reflect our commitment to living by the teachings of Christ. Our Catholic Gospel Values form the foundation of our pastoral care, guiding every interaction and decision. We seek to nurture the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of every child in our care, ensuring they grow in an environment of love, respect, and kindness, while developing strong character grounded in Christian values.

Our mission, *"God shines within our hearts, Jesus walks by our side, and the Holy Spirit gives us strength,"* is at the heart of everything we do. These words are a constant reminder of the presence of God in our lives, helping us to foster a school community that is not only supportive and inclusive but also centered on the love and teachings of Christ.

Our Mission and Core Values

Our school values and virtues are guided by the Catholic Gospel values, as well as the Theological and Cardinal virtues. These virtues form the very essence of who we are and how we live together in harmony as a school community.

The virtues chosen by the children for the children include:

- **Peace:** Striving to live in harmony and understanding with one another, resolving conflicts with kindness and respect.
- **Faith:** Trusting in God's plan for us and upholding Christian teachings in our daily lives.
- **Humility:** Recognizing our worth in God's eyes and respecting the worth of others, putting others before ourselves.
- **Perseverance:** Facing challenges with courage and determination, never giving up on our goals or values.
- **Uniqueness:** Embracing each person's individuality, knowing that God has created us all with purpose.
- **Kindness:** Showing love and care for others through thoughtful words and actions.
- **Inclusivity:** Welcoming all with open arms, ensuring everyone feels valued and accepted, regardless of differences.
- **Love:** The foundation of everything we do, love for God, ourselves, and one another.
- **Equality:** Treating everyone with fairness, ensuring everyone is given the same opportunities and respect.
- **Generosity:** Sharing our time, talents, and resources with others, making the world a better place.
- **Mission:** Carrying out the mission of Christ, being His hands and feet in the world.

Pastoral Care Aims

The primary aim of our pastoral care policy is to ensure that every child feels safe, valued, and loved, and to foster their spiritual, emotional, and social development in a nurturing and supportive environment. We aim to:



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- Provide a caring environment where children feel safe, happy, and supported.
- Encourage positive relationships, emphasizing respect, kindness, and consideration for others.
- Guide children in developing a strong sense of self-worth and belonging, knowing they are created in God's image and are loved unconditionally.
- Promote the holistic development of children, helping them grow in their faith and character as they strive to embody the virtues of Peace, Faith, Humility, Perseverance, Uniqueness, Kindness, Inclusivity, Love, Equality, Generosity, and Mission.
- Equip children with the emotional and social skills to face challenges with confidence and compassion.

Pastoral Care Structure

Our pastoral care structure is designed to ensure that every child has the support they need to thrive, both academically and emotionally. It is underpinned by our commitment to Catholic values, and it is implemented at every level of the school.

1. School Leadership and Staff:

- The school leadership team, including the Headteacher and Pastoral Care Lead, play a pivotal role in the spiritual and emotional well-being of the children.
- Teachers, support staff, and teaching assistants are committed to upholding the school's values and providing pastoral care in all aspects of school life.

2. Form Tutors and Class Teachers:

- Each class teacher or form tutor is the first point of contact for any pastoral concerns. They build strong relationships with the children, providing support and guidance.
- Form time provides space for reflection and the development of virtues in a safe and trusting environment.

3. Faith Support and Prayer:

- Prayer and reflection are integral to our pastoral care. Regular opportunities for prayer, collective worship, and quiet reflection help nurture the children's spiritual growth.
- We foster a deep connection with God and the teachings of the Church, encouraging children to turn to prayer in times of joy, challenge, and need.

4. Peer Support:

- The children themselves play an important role in pastoral care, supporting one another through a peer mentoring system, buddy systems, and friendship groups.
- We encourage positive social interactions and peer support as a way of building a compassionate and inclusive school community.

5. School Chaplaincy:

- Our school chaplain plays a key role in supporting the spiritual and emotional life of the school. They provide counsel and a listening ear for children and staff, particularly during times of difficulty.
- The chaplain also helps lead spiritual activities, including Masses, retreats, and reflection days.

6. Well-being and Mental Health Support:

- We take a proactive approach to mental health and well-being, offering support through a range of programs, including emotional literacy programs, anti-bullying initiatives, and safe spaces where children can seek help.



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- Children are encouraged to express their feelings and are taught resilience and coping strategies in line with our values.

Procedures for Supporting Pastoral Needs

1. Identifying Needs:

- Pastoral needs are identified through observation, conversations with children, feedback from parents and carers, and regular reviews of children's emotional well-being.
- Teachers are encouraged to share concerns with the pastoral care team and other appropriate staff.

2. Responding to Needs:

- When a pastoral need arises, we respond with sensitivity, care, and a focus on the child's dignity.
- Parents and carers are informed and involved in supporting their child's pastoral needs where appropriate.
- Interventions may include one-to-one support, small group work, or involvement from external agencies if required.

3. Anti-Bullying and Conflict Resolution:

- We take a zero-tolerance approach to bullying, rooted in our values of respect, kindness, and inclusion. Every child has the right to feel safe.
- When conflicts arise, we encourage children to resolve them using the principles of reconciliation and forgiveness, following the teachings of Jesus.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- The pastoral care system is continuously monitored to ensure it meets the needs of all children. Feedback from staff, children, and parents is integral to this process.
- The effectiveness of pastoral care is evaluated regularly as part of our commitment to maintaining a nurturing school environment.

Conclusion

The pastoral care at St. Mary's New Mills is at the heart of our school life. Guided by our Catholic Gospel Values and the virtues chosen by our children, we seek to create a school environment where every child is respected, valued, and supported. We are committed to nurturing the whole child—spiritually, emotionally, socially, and academically—so that each one can flourish and grow to their full potential, in the image of God.