

Our Pastoral *Care*

Pastoral care is a significant part of this role, so we thought it fitting to detail some of the provisions we have that form our pastoral care program. All of our children at The Downs are placed in the midst of a network of exceptional pastoral care. We go above and beyond to get to know each individual child and their families even before they join the school. Once members of our community, we seek a close partnership with parents, based on shared values and expectations in the development of each child.

Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group includes a number of key Teaching Staff, Head Matron and Wellbeing Coordinator. Their overall goal is to ensure the mental wellbeing of all pupils, and develop and maintain a happy environment in which all children feel safe and supported. Regular meetings, dissemination of relevant information to other staff, and the management and monitoring of the tutor system are some of the key actions.



Safeguarding

The Deputy Head Pastoral is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). They are supported by the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL). The Safeguarding team works closely with external agencies.



Form Teachers & Tutors

Our Form Teachers and Tutors monitor each child's overall attitude towards learning and their level of attainment. They also keep a close eye on their personal organisation, always encouraging independence. Simultaneously, they monitor the emotional and social development of each child providing guidance as required. Each term, all teachers attend Pastoral meetings where the general development of focus children for that term is discussed and recorded.



Learning Support Department

The sensitive nature of the work in the Learning Support (LS) Department usually leads to close bonds between children, parents and members of the LS Department. In such an environment, children and adults often disclose worries and concerns albeit that the specific focus is to support academic progress. Social, emotional and academic development are then closely intertwined in this regard.



Our Pastoral *Care*

"We have matrons who are there to look after us if you have any worries or are ill or hurt. They are really kind and give us a cuddle if we need it!" Year 3 Pupil

Matrons

The Matrons provide expert medical care for all the children however their role inevitably includes a large element of pastoral support. They are 'listeners' for all the children - and their parents - and they are able to identify trends in the children's needs. They also take an active interest in the children's eating habits. The Matrons are central to the Pastoral Care provided in the school.



Behavioural Management

The behaviour of the children in school is managed day-to-day by the Form Teachers and Tutors. Overall responsibility lies with the Deputy Head Pastoral although it is understood that it is the responsibility of all colleagues. The Headteacher works closely with the DSL and is kept informed about all children.



Pastoral Tracking

Each pupil belongs to a form group in Pre-Prep and a tutor group in the Prep School. Their teacher is responsible for managing the wellbeing of that child throughout the year. For one of the half-terms they will be a "Focus Child" with a specific target to achieve that half term. All pupil's pastoral information is tracked as they make their way up through the school passing from teacher to teacher to ensure continuity.



Well-being Coordinator

Sometimes there's a reason why a little extra pastoral care is needed. In this situation, we can arrange a one-to-one session with our wellbeing coordinator.

