



**HIGHER
WALTON
C. OF E. PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**POLICY
for
PASTORAL
CARE
and
PUPIL
SUPPORT**

POLICY FOR PASTORAL CARE AND PUPIL SUPPORT

At Higher Walton C of E School we approach the care of our children in a positive way, reinforcing the philosophy and ethos of the school and following the school discipline and behaviour policy.

Our children are fully supervised and we place great emphasis on the welfare and well being of the children in our care.

We aim for our children to feel happy and secure in whatever activity they are taking part in. Teachers, teaching assistants, welfare staff and other adult helpers are encouraged to approach the care of our children in a positive way, reinforcing the philosophy and ethos of the school and following the school discipline and behaviour policy. Full supervision also continues during all extra-curricular activities such as clubs. No child may remain in the classrooms, central resource areas, cloakroom/toilet areas or other areas of the building during playtimes and lunchtimes without adult supervision. Children may not enter the building at break times without the permission of a member of staff on duty.

Minor difficulties, worries or upsets involving any child which arise within the classroom or in the playground are dealt with by the staff involved with the child at that time. The child or children concerned are always fully involved in any discussion about an incident or concern.

More serious incidents or concerns about a child's behaviour, health or welfare are referred to the Headteacher, Inclusion Manager or Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding. All concerns regarding the children are discussed regularly at staff meetings. Incidents that are of concern to any staff member are recorded in the incident book, which is kept in the office.

A child's parents or guardians may be contacted if it is felt necessary to involve them in dealing with a particular situation or concern. This is usually carried out by means of personal contact when the child is collected from school or by a telephone call or letter.

Parents are always welcomed and encouraged to contact the school if they have any concerns or worries. We encourage parents to share concerns about home circumstances or medical matters that may affect their child's work or behaviour in school. Any discussions are held in confidence if desired or necessary.

All our children are encouraged to talk freely and openly to any member of staff if they have any worries or problems of any kind on a work or personal level. Staff respond to children in a sympathetic and concerned way, offering advice, support, guidance and reassurance. When needed, a nurture group "Social Group" is established to address specific needs and/or to support vulnerable pupils; for example those with anxiety, low self-esteem, challenging home circumstances. Inclusion of a child in Social Group is made by discussion with the Inclusion Manager and Teaching Assistant running the group, taking into account the personalities already within a group. Graduation from Social Group is by discussion between the Teaching Assistant and Inclusion Manager.

Where issues are long-term and beyond the expertise of school staff, a pupil may be referred to CAMHS¹ and/or a trained counsellor. Such referrals are always made with parental consent. Counselling sessions take place within school; these are confidential between pupil and counsellor.

¹ Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

Our school places strong emphasis on the individuality of every person and the children are encouraged to be positive and supportive in their approach to people who may seem ‘different’ through a disability or by their physical appearance.

As a school we have established and now maintain close liaisons with the various outside agencies involved in the care of children. These include Social Services, the Police and Fire Service. We also maintain a close working relationship with Educational Psychologists and members of the medical professions.

Regular health and hygiene checks are made throughout the school year. The school doctor and/or school nurse medically examines children at various times throughout their school career. Parents are informed of a medical examination and are asked to give their consent for this to take place.

This policy has been produced in consultation with staff and Governors, and reflects current practice. It should be read in conjunction with other school policies relating to pupil welfare, such as Anti-Bullying Policy, Behaviour Policy and PHSCE policy.

L.Downey
Updated J Headley

March 2006
Feb 2012, June 2014

This policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governors’ Ethos Committee on 17th June 2014