

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

The Pastoral Care system is concerned with the needs of each individual student. It aims to assist each student to develop personal responsibility for his or her own spiritual, social, moral, intellectual and physical growth. This is reflected in each policy that the school holds.

What follows is practice, when the school is not bound by COVID-19 restrictions.

Early in July, we invite all new students to Year 7 to an induction morning. We also invite any new students joining Years 8, 9 or 10. This provides an opportunity for them to meet their form tutor and other members of their tutor group and to become more familiar with St Bernard's. Where it is not possible to facilitate such an induction onsite due to COVID-19 restrictions, incoming pupils are provided with a virtual induction, which includes information from the Head of Year, a virtual tour of the school and video messages from the assigned form tutors.

The Head of Year 7 and Deputy Headteacher give very careful thought to the composition of each tutor group, using information gathered from the feeder schools, transition meetings with the students and any interview conducted by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, generally the Headteacher. In September, the first day of term for Year 7 and Year 12 is devoted to the induction of new students to the school; Peer Mentors from Yr11 assist in the induction of the new Yr7 students.

Usually, once a student is placed in a tutor group, he/she will stay in the same tutor group until the end of Year 11. The Head of Year is directly responsible for the welfare of each student within the year group. The Head of Year and Tutor get to know the students in their care very well; they take responsibility for the growth and development of their students and deal with everyday problems students may encounter in the life of the school.

All students from Years 7 - 13 have one tutorial lesson a week. Here the students follow a carefully planned course in Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE). These tutorial lessons help the students understand their present personal and social experiences. They develop their inter-personal skills and enable the students to grow in self-confidence.

The following statement and information appears on the school website and outlines the Pastoral Life of St Bernard's Catholic GS:

At St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School, we identify, recognise and celebrate our pupils' achievement, at all levels. We encourage pupils to take responsibility for themselves, each other, our community and for our world. We understand the importance of rewarding pupils when they do well and promote a motivational culture where pupils are actively encouraged to achieve their potential.

Our pastoral care system meets the changing needs of pupils as they grow and develop. We seek to ensure that every child will have support throughout their education and will feel very much part of their form, year group, and the whole school.

We expect the highest standards of behaviour, courtesy and respect between pupils, and teachers and pupils alike. We seek to ensure that the behaviour of our pupils in and out of school is always reasonable, showing courtesy to and consideration for other people, respecting all others' individuality without prejudice.

We provide a moral and spiritual framework for each pupil's personal development in order that they may become positive role models for other members of our community.

St Bernard's is a Roman Catholic Grammar School, in the parish of Holy Family, part of the Diocese of Northampton. We are a school that is true to its Mission Statement, where students are educated in a nurturing community, with each person loved and valued for whom they are. Every day at St. Bernard's, the Christian values of love, forgiveness and compassion to which we aspire, can be seen in evidence through the interactions of the whole school community. At our school, the welfare of both staff and students is paramount. We have a dedicated staff who place the welfare of the child at the centre of all that they do. Our teaching staff aim to inspire and develop lifelong qualities in the young people with whom they work, recognising that each student has their own individual needs and circumstances. Each student is a member of a form group, with a dedicated tutor who develops a strong sense of each of their tutees and supportive, caring relationships with all.

Each year group has a committed Pastoral Leader who oversees the progress of all of their charges, both academically and socially. They prepare a broad, yet relevant and engaging personal, social, health and economic education curriculum delivered by the tutor; and are actively involved in ensuring that the needs of each student in their year group(s) are supported with appropriate intervention. The students know that their Pastoral Leader is someone to whom they can turn in times of need or difficulty.

Our School Matron and Special Educational Needs Coordinator are integral components of the Pastoral Team, and both work very closely with each year Pastoral Leader to ensure the best possible care for our students. The school's Matron is available throughout the day to respond to any of the medical needs of our students or staff. Our SENCo leads a team of teaching assistants who support a number of our students on a one-to-one basis, as well as organising and delivering some of the school's literacy support provision.

A large number of our senior students play a fundamental role in developing the pastoral life of the school and ensuring the well-being of our younger students. We have over 80 Peer Mentors in Years 11-13 who work directly with our KS3 students, assisting them with the transition from Junior School in to Year 7 and supporting them in any way necessary through to GCSE study. The vast majority of students in Year 13 take on a role of responsibility as a Prefect, fulfilling various duties to assist in ensuring the safety of all and in providing a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities.

St. Bernard's truly is a school where the development of the whole person matters. We have gifted students who receive excellent teaching and go on to achieve highly impressive academic results. But this alone does not do justice to everything for which our school stands. There are a large number of extra-curricular opportunities on offer to our students, that provide the chance to develop a wide range of aspects of our being beyond academia, such as Spiritual enrichment through the work of the Chaplaincy, sporting prowess through PE organised activities, self-expression through debating and drama and musical aptitude through peripatetic lessons and concerts, to name but a few. As recognised by OFSTED, our students appreciate the wonderful extra-curricular opportunities, the outstanding care, guidance and support on offer and that their non-academic achievements are valued as much as their examination successes.

We pride ourselves on the community aspect of our school and the relationships that exist between all parties of our community are highly positive and supportive, and allow for all individuals, both staff and students, to flourish. The work we do today still has firm foundations in the role played by the Bernadine Cistercian Order who founded the school, and who embodied the example of service to others before self and having prayer at the centre of their lives. These remain the mission of all involved with St. Bernard's.

Approved by the Governors' Catholic Life of the School Committee 5th May 2021.

Review Date: May 2023