

PASTORAL CARE

Aims and Objectives

All our Pastoral work aspires to reflect the Aims of Durham High School, which are to:

- Be a friendly, caring community based on Christian principles where every individual is valued.
- Develop potential of every girl.
- Encourage academic excellence and a lifelong love of learning.

We are firmly committed to the ideal that girls who are happy and settled are most able to achieve their true potential. Therefore the primary aim of our Pastoral Care is, as far as possible, to ensure that each individual pupil feels valued, cared for and supported throughout her time at the High School. We aim to give each girl opportunities to develop the spiritual and moral resources she needs to cope with the demands of life in the 21st Century.

Our Pastoral Care also aims to reflect the government's *Every Child Matters* outcomes for children and young people: Be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic wellbeing.

We recognise that Pastoral Care is a community responsibility, not merely the remit of the Form Teacher; every member of the school community has a part in this process. Nevertheless, the role of Form Teacher is considered essential to the key aims of the school and the priority of every Form Teacher is the Pastoral Care of the pupils. We consider that partnership with parents is also crucial to the success of our Pastoral Care. We always aim to work together with parents to support the girls through their education and development. We encourage the girls to recognise the importance of their role in this caring community; in supporting one another and being reliable and loyal friends.

As staff, we aim to model supportive professional relationships, and to encourage each individual girl to adopt a positive approach to learning and to make the most of her time here at the High School. We recognise that knowing and valuing each individual girl is essential; knowing her parents and her family background, her strengths and weaknesses, her hopes and aspirations. This is a vital element of effective Pastoral Care. By its very nature, Pastoral Care involves dealing with difficulties that inevitably arise from time to time. We recognise that excellent academic progress and effective Pastoral Care are intrinsically linked. Therefore, both academic and personal progress is monitored regularly to ensure that any problems are identified promptly. We aim to listen carefully to pupils, to communicate quickly with parents and to manage problems sensitively, with the clear intention that each individual girl flourishes here and achieves her best.

Pastoral Structure

At Durham High School for Girls we pride ourselves on the fact that each pupil is known and knows that she is known.

The school's pastoral structure is a horizontal one based on year groups. The Form provides a framework for looking after each individual. The role of the form tutor is essential to the work of the School and the priority of every form tutor is the pastoral care of the pupils. All form teachers have the opportunity to get to know their pupils very well. In Junior House form staff deliver most of the curriculum and in Senior House, KS3 staff usually teach their specialist subject to their form and all meet the pupils in twice-daily registration, and weekly form assemblies and form periods.

In Junior House, form teachers deal with daily pastoral issues and pass on to the Head of Junior House more serious matters for her attention.

In Senior House, we are in a transition phase of moving from a Section Head system to a Year Head system. Currently we have Year Heads in Years 7, 8 and 9 to whom the girls' form teachers report. These Year Heads report to the Assistant Head (Pastoral). Years 10 and 11 currently have a Section Head to whom the Form Teachers report and the Sixth Form has a Senior Sixth Form Tutor who works closely in conjunction with the Director of Sixth Form Studies. The Assistant Head (Pastoral) has further responsibility for the Pastoral Curriculum. She is the PSHE co-ordinator and also line manager for the Counsellor. She acts as a support and advisor to the Head of Upper School and the Senior Sixth Form Tutor.

All pastoral groups meet regularly to discuss pastoral issues.

Whilst pupils are free to talk to any member of staff if they have concerns, for pupils wishing to discuss confidential matters they are also able to talk in private with the Counsellor and/or the Chaplain.

Pupil Counselling

A trained Counsellor, Hazel Saunders, is available for pupils to consult. An appointment with the counsellor can be made, with parental consent, through Mrs Settle for Junior House and Miss Rogers for KS3/4; Sixth Form students are able to email Ms Saunders to arrange an appointment.

Chaplain

The Chaplain, Mrs Jacklin, is available during the school day for meetings with pupils; her office is in the Hurworth Block.

Reviewed June 2009