

Carrig N.S.

Wellbeing policy

Introduction

Philosophy and context of this policy

Mission Statement of Carrig N.S.

- Promotion of spiritual and human development
- Achieving quality in teaching and learning
- Showing respect for every person
- Creating community
- Being just and responsible

These core statements carry the philosophy of the school. Both statements allude to the development of the full potential of the individual as central to the work of this school. The project to develop the full potential of all assumes and requires the wellbeing of each student since a sense of wellbeing is essential to allow an individual to grow and indeed the end of such development must surely include a sense of wellbeing.

This commitment to wellbeing is implicit in the school's ethos, in the commitment to promoting the spiritual and human development of each individual.

In the light of these core values, the school is clear that wellbeing must include a mental, physical, social and spiritual dimension. The provision for wellbeing is rooted in human community. We thrive as individuals only in community and very often it is community that sustains us through challenges. Hence, the emphasis of this policy is on the role of the whole school community in the programme of wellbeing. This is a whole school policy.

Goals of the policy

- To provide for the wellbeing of all students in the school in the light of the school Mission Statement.
- To outline the policies, procedures, culture, ethos and the activities which serve to assist the wellbeing of students at Carrig N.S.
- To recognise the interplay between and positive experience of school life, student achievement and long term wellbeing.
- To offer a coordinated structure in supporting our young people through the creation of a multiplicity of opportunities both within and without the classroom focused on the promotion of wellbeing.
- To outline the ways in which expertise of the staff and outside agencies are engaged to support and respond to needs.
- To provide an umbrella policy which outlines a structure that links a series of other policies that relate to wellbeing.

POLICY CONTENT

Section A. Support for all

At this level we have a series of policies and procedures that promote wellbeing for all members of the school community – a whole school approach.

Processes on this level aim at:

1. The establishment of a safe environment that is conducive to wellbeing and which supports the prevention of factors that negatively impact on wellbeing.
2. Promotion of an understanding of and commitment to wellbeing.
3. Early identification and intervention in the cases of challenge.

Establishing a safe environment

Behaviour code

Carrig N.S. is a school community of students, teachers and ancillary staff, and parents / guardians, that fosters an ethos centred on positive relationships and seeks the development of the potential of each member of the community.

All members of this community have a right to be safe and respected. This code of behaviour is our policy to support these key rights and an outline of the strategies and sanctions which serve to protect those rights. This code gives priority to the promotion of good behaviour, affirming that behaviour, and thereby creating and sustaining the environment for effective teaching and learning.

We have the highest expectations for all members of this community. This code outlines these expectations. Central to this code is the knowledge that students behaviour can change. The code seeks to outline strategies, goals, motivation and incentives to support a student in managing behaviour which hinders the promotion of positive teaching and learning.

Anti Bullying Policy and Procedures

In the promotion of wellbeing, we believe that each member of the community has the “right to an education free from fear and intimidation”. The Board of Management recognises the negative impact that bullying can have on the lives of individual within the school community and is therefore fully committed to the following key principles of best practice in attempting to prevent bullying behaviour and tackling it when it does occur:

- A positive school culture and climate which-
- Is welcoming of difference and diversity and is based on inclusivity:
- Encourages pupils to disclose and discuss incidents of bullying behaviour in a non-threatening environment and promotes respectful relationships across the school community.
- Leadership

- A school wide approach and a shared understanding of what bullying is and its impact.
- Implementation of education and prevention strategies (including awareness raising measures) that- build empathy, respect and resilience in pupils; and explicitly address the issues of cyber-bullying and identity-based bullying.
- Supervision and monitoring of pupils.
- Supports for staff.
- Consistent recording, investigation and follow up of bullying behaviour and on-going evaluation of the effectiveness of the anti-bullying policy.

Substance Use Policy

As the DES guidelines reiterate: 'the world in which we live presents young people with many challenges that affect their health and well-being.

We are committed to addressing the needs of the whole school in relation to substance misuse. The school recognises that substances, both legal and illegal, are available in the local community and that the school, as part of that community, has an important role in terms of education, prevention and support.

Health and safety policy

It is the policy of Carrig N.S to do all that is reasonable and practicable to prevent injury to people, damage to property and to protect everyone (including staff, students, public, contractors and visitors) from foreseeable hazards. The Board of Management recognises its overall responsibility for Health and Safety at Carrig N.S. and meets this through;

- The provision of a safe place to work, including safe access and egress.
- The provision of a safe plant and equipment, articles and substances.
- The provision of safe systems of work.

- The provision of appropriate information, instruction, training and supervision.
- Determining and implementing appropriate preventative and protective measures.
- Having regard to the general principles of prevention.
- The provision of emergency plans and procedures.
- Reporting prescribed accidents and dangerous occurrences to the Health and Safety Authority.
- Obtaining, where necessary, the services of a competent person to advise on health and safety.

Child Protection Policy

The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools as part of this overall child protection policy.

The Board of Management has ratified the appointment of a designated Liaison Person (The Principal) and Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy Principal). All concerns regarding the welfare of a child should be reported to them. There is an obligation on the school to provide students with the highest possible standard of care in order to promote their wellbeing and protect them from harm. In situations where school personnel suspect that a child may have been abused, or is being abused, or is at risk of abuse, or is being neglected, they should ensure that such concerns are reported to the Designated Liaison person (The Principal) or the Deputy-Principal if he is unavailable. The Designated Liaison person will deal with the health Service Executive (HSE), An Garda Síochána and other parties, in connection with allegations of and/or concerns about child abuse or neglect.

Data Protection Policy

Carrig N.S. Data Protection Policy applies to the personal data held by Carrig N.S. The policy applies to all Carrig N.S. staff, the board of management, parents/guardians, students and others insofar as the

measures under the policy relate to them. Data will be stored securely, so that confidential information is protected in compliance with relevant legislation. This policy sets out the manner in which personal data and sensitive personal data will be protected by Carrig N.S.

Carrig N.S. is a data controller of personal information relating to its past, present and future staff, students, parents/guardians and other members of the school community. As such, Carrig N.S. is obliged to comply with the principles of data protection set out in the Data Protection Acts which can be summarised as follows:

- Obtain and process Personal data fairly.
- Keep it only for one or more specified and explicit lawful purposes.
- Process it only in ways compatible with the purposes for which it was given initially;
- Keep personal data safe and secure.
- Keep personal data accurate, complete and up-to-date.
- Ensure that it is adequate, relevant and not excessive.
- Retain it no longer than is necessary for the specified purpose or purposes for which it was given.

Our Internet Safe Usage Policy

The Policy ensures that students will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's internet resources in a safe and effective manner. Strategies are in place to maximise learning and reduce risks. Usage agreement from parent and student is required and every reasonable precaution is taken by the school to provide on-line safety.

Critical Incident Policy

The Critical Incident Policy and Plan outlines how the staff will respond to a critical incident. This is an incident or sequence of events which overwhelms the normal coping mechanism of the school.

The Critical Incident Management Plan helps school staff react quickly and efficiently in the event of an incident. It maintains a sense of order

with support offered to students, staff and families. It minimises the effects on students and facilitates a return to normality as soon as possible.

Section A.2 Promoting Wellbeing

Our Commitment to quality Teaching and Learning

The management and staff in Carrig N.S. are committed to the creation of positive, engaging learning experiences for our students.

Use of a variety of learning and teaching methodologies and strategies

Mindful of our mixed ability setting, staff utilise a variety of teaching approaches and methodologies to maintain student engagement and maximise learning and achievement. Emphasis has also been placed in recent years on the integration of ICT into teaching and learning in the school. These skills are of benefit in creating an engaged learning and teaching environment. Team teaching for SEN support is also now a significant strategy in the provision of Sen Support in the school.

The promotion of a culture of high expectations in all elements of school life

Explicit in our Behaviour Code and in our Mission Statement is the strong encouragement to create a culture of high expectation in our students. Whether in relation to academic achievement, social engagement or behaviour management, students are consistently reminded of the value the school places on their wholehearted engagement in school work and its hope and expectation for them as individuals and members of a community.

Positive Relationships

Our promotion of positive relationships is based on the recognition of the dignity of each individual and the importance of respectful relationships between teachers, students and parents. Building an emphasis on positivity and on rewarding positive behaviour underpins all the relationships at Carrig N.S.

Staff with both a professional and personal commitment to the wellbeing of our students

Our staff see its role as supporting the growth of the whole person. In keeping with the Mission Statement, staff at the school aspires to develop the whole person, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, social, cultural and physical. All relationships at our school are built on the central tenet or respect. The learning and teaching environment is a place of great endeavour at the school while the number and diversity of co-curricular activities and the extracurricular provision is a testament to staff commitment to our students. The extra activities, talks, tours, trips and events organised in parallel to the curriculum is central to the positive relationships at the heart of school life at Carrig N.S.

Policy Protocol

All elements of this policy are reviewed periodically, through informal student feedback on the speakers, programmes and activities, by Questionnaires and small group discussions.

The policy document will be formally reviewed every 24 months from the time of ratification.

Ratified by the Board of Management 25/2/2021

Review date: Feb 2023

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