

## St. Anthony's Special School

# Pastoral Care Statement

The aim of this statement is to safeguard and protect the rights and welfare of staff, pupils, parents and all who visit our school. All members of the school community have a right to be treated with respect and to work in a safe environment. Teachers have a right to teach, pupils have a right to be taught, parents and visitors have a right to be shown respect and courtesy. Behaviour that interferes with the rights of others is unacceptable.

The climate in our school is one of trust, respect, love, joy, care, concern, support, welcome, understanding and acceptance. A holistic education is provided and every effort is made to nurture the child's innate love for learning. We help our pupils acquire knowledge, skills and practical abilities and the desire to use them. We emphasise the importance of developing self-esteem and self-confidence. While recognising that all children have different abilities and learning styles every effort is made to help children reach their full potential. Opportunities are provided for children to discover and develop their talents. Efforts are made to ensure that children achieve success regularly.

We celebrate difference and nurture tolerance and respect for all human beings. Respect is the key component. Each person is special and unique. All children are given equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of school life. Every day we learn from each other. As we teach we learn.

Our school policies on Discipline and Anti-Bullying are implemented fairly and consistently by all staff. We teach the standard of behaviour which is acceptable in our school. Our proactive strategies create a positive climate in the school and positive behaviour is affirmed. Weekly assemblies offer the opportunity to acknowledge good behaviour.

A safe, caring, sensitive and positive environment within our school allows children to be open and respond to care. Teachers are made aware of pupils needs and every effort is made to respond sensitively to individual needs in a confidential manner. All our children, as individuals, have different needs at different times in their lives. Efforts are made to cater for all children to the best of our ability using the human and physical resources within the school, liaising with parents and also with other relevant personnel involved from external agencies.

Teachers and staff in the school are encouraged to use and develop their talents. The Board of Management recognises the importance of and supports the professional development of all staff members.

There is a strong sense of community within the school and a high level of co-operation is evident among staff/pupils/parents/visitors. All children are taught to show respect for their environment through the Green Schools Programme.

Pastoral Care is therefore embedded throughout the school curriculum. It is part of the perceived curriculum, delivered in the enacted curriculum and experienced by all the school community in the hidden curriculum. Our overall aim is to encourage and enable the students in their quest for self-identity and to help them develop the skills to build healthy and fulfilling relationships.