



## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

In Nendrum College we believe that homework plays an important role in each child's learning and development. A conscientious effort by the pupil to complete each task develops qualities of self-discipline and self-reliance. It establishes good working habits and practices. Work at home ensures steady progress across the range of subjects studied, improves retention and increases understanding. Study skills must be learned and practised in the Junior School in order to cope with the demands made by entry for external examinations later.

Homework is set on a regular basis with the frequency of tasks varying from subject to subject. Pupils are issued with a homework timetable at the beginning of the academic year and a homework diary is given to each pupil in September in which to record homeworks given.

Appropriate homework need not always be of the traditional written variety. It is equally important to develop the skills of reading, recording, observing and revising. A task may involve the collection of information from a range of sources or the viewing of a specified television programme. It is also expected that work begun in class should be completed and learned at home. Problems regarding understanding should be raised with the appropriate teacher at the earliest opportunity.

Parental interest and involvement is welcomed. Whenever possible, pupils should be encouraged to work in a quiet part of the home and produce good quality work, punctually. Failure to do so will result in parents receiving notification of this problem.

Pupils, who wish to, have the opportunity to complete homework making use of the Library at lunch-time and ICT facilities after 3.05pm.



## **PASTORAL POLICY**

### **AIMS**

Nendrum College aims:

“To provide a disciplined yet caring and supportive environment in which each pupil is encouraged to attain his/her true potential both academically and socially.”

In order to achieve this prime aim we seek:

“To regard each pupil as an individual with different needs and expectations who, through guidance, may develop a sense of personal worth and respect for others.”

To this end the College will, through its curriculum and guidance activities, help pupils to:

- develop a knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals, strengths and weaknesses, abilities, skills, personal qualities, attitudes and values, needs;
- learn how to acquire information in order to make decisions which may concern their personal life, their school work or their future careers;
- take charge of the conduct and outcome of their own lives;
- come to terms with their responsibilities to their peers, their parents and the wider community in which they live;
- prepare themselves for the transition to adulthood and a working life.

### **STRUCTURE**

In order to fulfil this goal, the pastoral structure has been designed so that both teachers and pupils can clearly identify the appropriate support when the occasion demands. Pastoral and disciplinary aspects of College life are interlinked. The process of pastoral care is brought about by the daily interaction between staff and pupils, staff and parents and outside agencies. Subsequent good communication between staff at all levels is considered essential for the well-being of the pupils in our care.

The College aims through its pastoral ethos to prevent rather than correct infringements of the good order considered essential to effective learning and development.



## **PUPIL PROTECTION POLICY**

In Nendrum College we believe that all members of the College Community have the right to be free from physical or emotional abuse.

We recognise that in growing up and in maturing, some young people encounter relationship difficulties with others. A judgement has to be made regarding an acceptable level of interpersonal disharmony and what could be deemed "Bullying". Where an infringement into the well-being of a member of the College community is considered to be bullying, it will be dealt with according to the College Policy on Anti Bullying.

Measures can only be taken if those available to provide help are made aware of the situation.

- Pupils are encouraged through Assemblies, and the LLW programme to show respect for others and report any infringement of acceptable conduct towards others.
- Pupils are all made aware at the beginning of each school year and reminded throughout the year, of the various people available to them if they require help. These include Form Teachers, Year Heads, Heads of Junior and Senior School and Counsellors.
- Friends/Classmates are encouraged to report to staff if they are aware of any pupil being unduly upset as a result of the inappropriate behaviour of another or others.
- When/If such a situation arises, it will be dealt with through the discipline/counselling combination approach, according to the severity of the situation. Pupils may be suspended from the College and parents involved if one pupil physically assaults another in a vicious, non-accidental way.
- All personnel who come in contact with pupils during the College day are vetted according to EA requirements. Complaints about staff and volunteers should be taken to the Principal and will be dealt with according to the guidelines set out in Pastoral Care In Schools, Child Protection, issued in 1999 by the Department of Education.

The Designated Teacher for reporting suspected cases of child abuse to is Miss V Thompson (Vice Principal). The Deputy Designated Teacher is Mr C Maginnis (Vice Principal). Staff are informed of this annually and provided with guidelines for identifying suspected cases of abuse. All teaching staff have received copies of Pastoral Care in Schools, Child Protection (DENI 1999), and there is annual training associated with Child Protection.

Parents are provided biannually with a summary of the College Pupil Protection Policy.



## **POLICY ON POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**

The Department of Education (DENI) identifies “Good behaviour as a necessary condition for effective teaching and learning to take place and is an important outcome of education” (Education Observed No 5 - D E S).

The aim of Nendrum College is ‘to provide a disciplined yet caring and supportive environment in which each pupil is encouraged to attain his/her true potential both academically and personally’. This aim underpins the ethos of our College, and the acceptance of a Code of Conduct, development of self-discipline and respect for others are seen as central to the promotion of good teaching and learning in a safe and secure environment for all.

The Pastoral Programme is an integral part of Positive Behaviour in College. Central to this is the FORM TEACHER / YEAR HEAD / HEADS OF JUNIOR/SENIOR SCHOOL / COUNSELLING structure.

The College, as a Rights Respecting School awarded by UNICEF, promotes positive attitudes to school work and respect for one another.

Pupils are regularly consulted on matters relating to them through the Student Council and are regularly awarded for achievement and effort through the Merit System in Junior School and Pupil of the Month throughout the College.

Individual and team achievements are highlighted regularly in form time, assemblies, Prize Day and on other special occasions.

Pupils are, as a matter of course, given responsibilities at whole school level such as the pupil led Charity Committee, ECO Council, Peer Mentors and Prefects to senior pupils.

The College is supported by parents in resolving any issues. Early notification of problems and the opportunity to discuss incidents and possible courses of action together are essential elements of the Positive Behaviour Policy.

Sanctions will be applied, appropriate to any misdemeanour, and can include detention at break, additional work to be completed at home, placed on report and detention after school. For more serious offences, pupils are placed on special timetable. Parents are fully informed and consulted at each stage.

Following EA guidance, the College reserves the right to suspend pupils for up to five school days where preventative strategies and sanctions have failed to produce acceptable behaviour. Expulsion will be considered after all other options have been exhausted.

Pupils, parents and staff have drawn up and agreed a Pupil Charter for Positive Behaviour, based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Pupils and parents are asked annually to sign a simple contract giving support to the School Rules. These are retained by the pupils’ form teachers.