



Meánscoil Meánscoil Gharman Secondary School

Pastoral Care Policy

The ethos of Meánscoil Gharman Secondary School is Irish, Christian, caring, supportive, respectful, inspiring, welcoming, helpful, and understanding. Every relationship within the school is based on respect. The concept of respect applies to everyone in the school.

We understand that the term "respect" means that as a school, we care for the relationships between the various parties in the school and that we put policies, structures, and resources in place to support students as they develop.

Formal Structures

Class Teacher: Each class has a class teacher. The class teacher will have regular contact with the students, nearly every day, and each student will have the opportunity to speak with the class teacher about various issues. If necessary, the class teacher will inform the principal or deputy principal.

Principal/Deputy Principal: The principal and deputy principal make an effort to personally get to know the students in the school so that the students feel comfortable approaching them with any concerns. They will communicate with parents or external organizations such as NEPS or TUSLA when necessary. They have regular communication with class teachers and learning support teachers. Information about students is shared discreetly with teachers as needed.

Learning Support Teacher: The learning support teacher works with all the teachers; they maintain contact with parents, NEPS, and prepare individual educational plans for students with special educational needs.

Chaplain: Two chaplains are available to speak with students and their families. The chaplains attend various school ceremonies throughout the year.

Health Education Teachers: They ensure that the curriculum is age-appropriate and suits the needs of students in different year groups.

Peer Leaders: Peer leaders are chosen from a group of students in Transition Year who are willing to help first-year students settle into secondary school life. The Peer Leader system is voluntary. The selected students receive training during the summer to become leaders in fifth year. The peer leaders meet with first-year students during their induction week in the summer. Several events are organized to give the students the opportunity to get to know each other and develop friendships between senior and junior students.

New Teachers: Induction for new teachers takes place at the start of the year. The teachers are welcomed, the ethos of the school is explained, and the school's structure and policies are discussed. There is a "Bridge" program for newly qualified teachers (NQTs).

Student Council: The Student Council consists of 9 students, one representative from each class. They try to meet once a week. Students have the opportunity to discuss any issues they wish and present them to the school management.

Illness and Accidents: Teachers must inform management of any accidents that occur at school or any illness a student may have. Management will contact parents if necessary, and they will be asked to come and collect their child from school. In the case of an emergency, the student will be taken to the doctor or hospital, and the parents will be informed as soon as possible. Parents must ensure that any necessary medical information is provided on the school registration form.

Note The Transition Year is participating in the “Face in the Crowd” program from now on, organized by the Mental Health Association in Wexford. We are currently working on a new positive system for the students.