



Care Team Policy

Introduction

St. Mary's National School Care Team Policy aims to provide a co-ordinated approach to caring for children in the school. While it is limited to and by school time, we realise that many external issues impinge on the development of the student. Hence, the purpose of the care team is to provide for students who have a greater need for a higher level of intervention from the school community. The Care Team is a visible representation of the school's understanding and valuing of each student as an individual.

Objectives

The Care Team undertake the following:

- To discuss children who have been identified as being at risk in a confidential setting.
- To decide interventions and measures to support these children, and their teachers where possible.
- To share relevant information about children with the Principal, class teacher, special education teacher and SNA.
- To review and monitor children with care needs.
- To liaise with external professionals about the welfare of the child.
- To liaise with the parents/guardians of the child.

Care Team Members (2022/2023)

- Lorraine Murphy (Coordinator)
- Tara O'Brien
- Róisín Comerford
- Louisa Howard
- Alyson Kelly-Byrne
- Dónal MacSweeney
- Jennifer Ward

Structure of Care Team Meetings

The Care Team formally meets once per term, or more frequently if required on a needs basis, to oversee student welfare in the school. The Care Team coordinator will organise the meetings on a termly basis and inform and remind the Care Team members of upcoming meetings.

Process

- The Care Team coordinator will chair the meeting.
- The team will discuss children who have been identified through the referral system.
- Suggestions are made about possible interventions within the school by staff, outside the school by parents/guardians or referrals to external agencies for additional support for the children.
- Action plans for each target pupil (what action, by whom, when) will be recorded.
- Parents will be informed of action plan (where necessary).
- Children will be monitored on an on-going basis if necessary and supports and interventions provided will be reviewed.

Student Referral to the Care Team

All staff in the school community have a responsibility to be observant of the care needs of the students. Individual staff members need to trust their intuition regarding a student who requires referral. It is in the interest of the student to have a clear referral system. The process of referral to the Care Team will be clearly outlined to staff.

Staff members (teachers, SNAs, management and administrators) can refer a student directly to the Care Team by completing a 'Care Team Referral Form' (see appendix 1). This can be sent to the Care Team Coordinator via Aladdin or handed directly to the Care Team Coordinator.

Criteria for Referral

This list is non-exhaustive but may include concerns regarding:

- Poor and/or inconsistent attendance
- Traumatic events which a child may have experienced
- Family circumstances e.g. parental addiction
- Housing difficulties
- Withdrawn or aggressive behaviour
- Anxiety
- School refusal
- Neglect/hygiene issues

The Care Team is not the only forum for referral in the school. Matters of Child Protection are immediately reported to the Designated Liaison Person, academic concerns can be shared with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator and concerns regarding behaviour can be discussed with both the Principal or Deputy Principal.

Miriam Marron
5/12/22

Appendix 1: Care Team Referral Form

St. Mary's National School

Child Details:

Name:	D.O.B:	Age:
Teacher:	Class:	

Support Child Currently Receives:

Reading Support		Behaviour Support		IEP/Resource/SNA		Maths Support	
EAL Support		Speech, Language		O.T. Support		Other	

Behaviour/Social/Medical Concerns:

Aggressive		Disorganised		Anxious		Angry		Confused	
Passive		Distractive		Fearful		Argues		Vision	
Social Skills		Immature		Withdrawn		Defies/Refuses		Hearing	
Disruptive		Impulsive		Physical complaints		Blames others		Other Medical	
Attention		Doesn't listen		Lethargic		Lies		Steals	
Doesn't retain		Fidgets		Sleeps in class		Steals		Cheats	
Inconsistent		Interrupts		Hygiene		Destroys property		Seems depressed	
Hungry		Other							

Please further outline your reason for referral:

What actions have already been taken:

Please photocopy observations/monitoring details of child in concern and attach.

Requested by:	Date:
Received by:	Date:

