



Policy

Pastoral care policy

Aims:

- To ensure the Health, Safety and Welfare of pupils is at the centre of school policies.
- To help staff and pupils understand that the Health, Safety and Welfare of pupils is the responsibility of all members of the school.
- To help parents understand their role in the education of their child
- To demonstrate the commitment of Oakham School to the pastoral care of its pupils

Oakham school is a community which places the pastoral care and the development of the pastoral learning of it's members at the heart of its activities.

The health, safety and wellbeing of the pupils at the school permeate through all policies. The physical and mental wellbeing of our pupils is of paramount importance. There is a commitment to ensure pupils have a healthy lifestyle through the provision of suitable food, activities, facilities, health care, education and staff.

During their time at Oakham pupils receive education in healthy eating, sexual health and relationships, building resilience, avoiding drug and alcohol abuse, staying safe both physically and electronically and anti-bullying. The tutorial, PSHE and RSE programs are developed and delivered in a way that will help pupils learn at an appropriate age how to achieve a healthy fulfilling lifestyle.

Housemasters/Housemistresses, Tutors and Matrons play a particularly important role in caring for the individual within the school, with clear guidance, support and training being given to staff on this area. There is close liaison between the house and medical centre to ensure that a child's medical, both physical and emotional needs are met. Where a child needs a greater level of support a Care Plan developed by the medical centre or Student Support plans is used to complement the care received and ensure the appropriate staff are involved in the child's care. The child's Housemasters/Housemistresses will usually initiate this, but it could also be developed by the medical centre if this is where the area of concern comes from initially. All staff who have a concern regarding a child should report it to the DSL or Housemaster/Housemistress accordingly.

Mental health issues amongst pupils are treated seriously and in a supportive fashion- pupils may access the school mental health team via a referral system on the school start page. Regular house meetings as well as link nurses help ensure a good strong network is in place to support all involved. Use of external agencies including CAHMS are used as well as in house Mindfulness courses and counselling. Key staff such as HMs and matrons receive youth MHFA training.

We believe that parents must be included in, and understand the world in which their child is growing up. We therefore insist on regular communication between tutors and parents and offer talks and discussions to help educate and support parents in understanding drug and alcohol use, sex and relationships and electronic communication amongst teenage pupils. This also allows us to listen to their concerns and develop our programmes accordingly.

Policies which govern all of school areas have due regard for this overarching aim.

The following statement is in all houses:

Pastoral/ Boarding principles

Oakham is a school where ambition, enthusiasm, initiative and hard work are rewarded. Our houses provide opportunities to support our core values of care, courage, contribution and connection. They are communities where the compassionate and consistent pastoral support enables pupils to develop as individuals whilst fostering a sense of tolerance and respect. We endeavour to help pupils have an awareness of their environment and the wider world we live in with a genuine confidence to play a positive role in its future. This comes through giving opportunities to connect and contribute to the house, the school and the wider community. To lead and be led with courage and care, developing young people who are comfortable in leadership positions, happy to accept responsibility but not assume privilege as a result.

SJG

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Review in 2024