



St Christopher's the Hall School



Pastoral Care

Policy Owner: Head of Pastoral

ISSR Reference: N/A

Reviewed: Michaelmas 2025

Approved: Education committee (JS) Michaelmas 2025

Next Review: Michaelmas 2026

Version Control Information

Reason for Amendment	Role	Date	Main Changes
Annual review	Head of Pastoral	Autumn Term 2025	New Template Aligning with St Dunstan's Group

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1. Aims

This policy is applicable to staff, pupils and parents of St Christopher’s the Hall School (‘the School’) and aims to ensure all parties are clear on the mechanisms through which pastoral care is delivered and overseen in the College.

2. Legislation

This policy is based on expectations set out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), and informed by the following legislation:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sep 2024)

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 St Dunstan’s Education Group

The governing body has ultimate responsibility for pastoral care but will delegate day-to-day responsibility to the Head of St Christopher’s the Hall, who line managed the Head Pastoral.

The governing body has a duty to:

- Review this policy annually
- Ensure the senior School follows what is articulated within this framework

3.2 The Head of the School

The Head of the School and Head Pastoral for are responsible for pastoral care in the School. This involves:

- Ensuring all staff in the School follow what is articulated within this framework
- Staff receive sufficient training on how to implement the principles outlined in the policy

3.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for the provision of pastoral care in the senior School. Staff will:

- Implement the framework outlined in this policy, including specific roles for teaching staff and teaching support staff.

3.4 Pupils and parents/carers

Pupils and parent/carers are responsible for communicating effectively with the School regarding any support that may be required.

4. The School's approach to pastoral care

- St Christopher's the Hall is ambitious and forward-thinking in its approach to pastoral care. Our pastoral systems aim to support pupils' holistic development; to foster the School values of confidence, curiosity, compassion, creativity and courage and to encourage social responsibility.
- Our individualised pastoral care is delivered by the Pastoral Team and is supported by the wider school teaching and teaching support team. All staff value and support the individual needs and diversity of our pupil body.
- The School aims to effectively equip pupils emotionally and practically for life at and after St Christopher's, in the recognition that they are growing up in an unpredictable and changing world.
- Our pastoral care programme plays a key role in pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, in conjunction with our School curriculum.

4.1 Pastoral care

Every child has a form teacher who is responsible for overseeing their personal development in the School.

Form teachers oversee registration twice a day, in the morning and afternoon, as well as teaching the core curriculum subjects across the year group. During registration and dedicated Form Time, form teachers join pupils in assemblies, review and support individuals with their academic and pastoral progress and contribute towards the wider pastoral programme. Form teachers also focus on proactive teaching, encouraging pupils to use Circle Time to discuss relevant issues.

Pastoral care at the School includes having high expectations with high support, outstanding awareness of pupils' individual learner characteristics and supporting pupils to take ownership of their outcomes across the curriculum.

The quality of pastoral care is reviewed through regular learning walks by pastoral leaders, feedback from pupils and parents and information shared with teachers by pupils with particular positions of responsibility. Form teachers meet regularly in their Phase meetings to discuss year group priorities, led by the relevant Section Head.

4.2 School pastoral programme

The aims of the School's pastoral programme are to support pupils in the ownership of their emotional wellbeing, to develop self-awareness and resilience, and to celebrate individual learner characteristics, including neurodiversity. This is underpinned by a strong pastoral care system that ingrains the School values, in particular compassion, in the School community.

The School pastoral programme includes three key strands:

- Wellbeing, mental health and resilience: How do I manage my own wellbeing, build resilience and increase my mental health awareness?
- Individual learner characteristics and neurodiversity: How can I develop awareness and understanding of my own individual learner characteristics and those of others?
- Pastoral care and a compassionate community: How can I lean on those around me and build a compassionate community?

4.2.1 Wellbeing, mental health and resilience:

School staff will educate pupils on the actions they can take to manage their own emotional wellbeing and build resilience to challenging circumstances. This includes how to positively support their mental and physical health, as well as understanding how to identify personal triggers which signify that they may need additional support from trusted adults in school and/or at home. Typical activities to explore may include mindfulness practice, sleep hygiene, awareness of cognitive processes and neuroplasticity.

4.2.2 Individual learner characteristics and neurodiversity:

School staff encourage and support pupils to understand and respond to individual learner characteristics, including emotional, neurological, linguistic, medical, physical and educational differences. The Snug is a spaces where pupils can seek and access specialist support. As children progress through the School, they will broaden their understanding of individual differences, in particular neurodiversity.

4.2.3 Pastoral care and a compassionate community:

School pupils learn how to better understand their own strengths and areas for improvement and how to set goals and review progress. Our Character Value Champions serve to infuse the full range of Character Values, with a particular focus on compassion within the College, local and international communities.

4.3 School Council

Pupils are encouraged through pupil voice and the School Council to act as architects of the School community, driving change and improvement, such that the community continues to be forward-thinking, liberal, accepting and harmonious.

School Council includes democratically elected representatives from Reception to Year 6. These representatives serve a one-year term and meet regularly to discuss issues arising and strategic priorities for St Christopher's the Hall.
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4.4 Partnership with parents / carers

Working in partnership with parents and carers is at the centre of the pastoral model, with parents receiving regular feedback on their child's pastoral achievements, alongside academic attainment. Parents are expected to work with the School to ensure high levels of attainment, attendance and standards of behaviour. In the vast majority of cases, the first point of contact is a pupil's form teacher.

4.5 Counsellor

Counselling services are available to all pupils in the School. Pupils in the School can access the School counselling service, with referrals made via the Head Pastoral, in collaboration with parents/carers. This service is paid for the parents. Counsellor works with year groups throughout the year supporting our PSHE programme and pastoral needs.

Each pupil who is referred to our counselling service will receive an initial short assessment to determine whether in-School counselling is the most appropriate form of support. In some cases, our counsellors may determine that a pupil's needs are complex and can only be supported by CAMHS. Pupils cannot be supported by CAMHS and by our School counsellors concurrently.

Further information on the School's approach to safeguarding and mental health can be found in P1 Child Protection and Safeguarding.

5. Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed by the Deputy Head Pastoral annually.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Education Committee.

6. Links with other policies

This pastoral care policy links to the following policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Anti-Bullying
- Curriculum
- ICT