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ST CLARE'S ABBEY NURSERY UNIT



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PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

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Context for our policy

In St Clare's Abbey P.S and Nursery Unit, we consciously strive to ensure that the spirits of our patrons: Blessed Edmund Rice, St Clare and St Francis are evident in all that we do in our school. We truly commit to using our mission statement as a compass to guide us in our work. The vision for life in St Clare's Abbey Nursery sits very well with the work that we do to promote positive behaviour. We view ourselves as carrying the mantle forward and continuing the work engaged in so passionately by them. See below the inspiration provided by:

Blessed Edmund Rice-

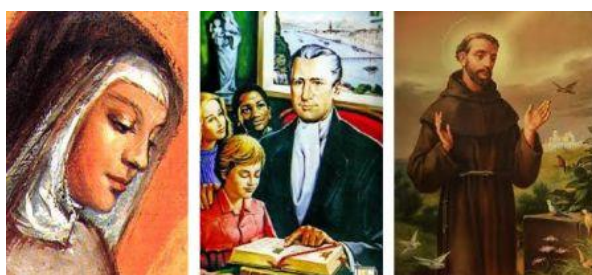
Staff are keenly aware that Blessed Edmund Rice was noted for 'discontinuing' the employment of some of his teachers who insisted on ruling with the rod, rather than taking the time to 'get to know' the child and nurture him, to help him have the best education possible. He was a man 'ahead of his time' and motivates our staff greatly. As such there is great emphasis on the importance of having all our work on promoting good behaviour underpinned by strong relationships between pupils and the staff taking care of them.

St Clare-

St Clare demonstrated throughout her life the power of people joining in joyful service and always interacting with great respect for their fellow human beings. That is why the predominant tone throughout all aspects of our policy and practice is of happiness/celebration when things go well or determination that when things have gone wrong that we can make them better. The restorative approach whilst very much in vogue today, has been promoted by St Clare since the early 13th century.

St Francis-

Also inspired our staff when we created this policy. When he established his Religious congregation in the early 13th century, he was asked by church seniors to provide his manifesto/ rule book. This did not sit well with St Francis as he did not believe in living and working with people who were bound together and united simply because they had a shared set of rules to follow. Rather he believed in creating an ethos through which the spirit and shared value system could grow and nourish people. In our Nursery setting, whilst we do talk about boundaries of safety, we do so in an ethos of care, compassion and respect for each other.



St Clare's Abbey's Nursery visionary framework:

Our school mission statement: *Within St Clare's Abbey Nursery we are guided in our thoughts, words and actions by the values of our patrons; Blessed Edmund Rice, Saint Clare and Saint Francis who devoted their lives to sharing God's love with others through their dedicated and joyful service.*

In our efforts to keep their mission alive in 21st century Ireland we encourage everyone in our school to:

- *Love God*
- *Love each other &*
- *Love learning*

School aims:

We will work with our parents and the wider community to help all in St Clare's Abbey develop:

- *A sense of how precious we are and of God's great love for us.*
- *The social skills and moral attributes required to contribute positively to our community.*
- *A true love for learning that will help each of us achieve our full potential.*

All staff are passionate about the importance of building good relationships with our boys and girls, showing them constantly that we care about them. We truly believe that when the relationships are strong pupils want to be 'good' and any instances of 'bad behaviour' can be sorted out (in most instances) in a subtle way by the staff member immediately involved. We believe that ongoing work on respect gives us a rock-solid foundation from which good behaviour can be more easily built.

We fully support the adage that 'prevention is better than cure' and we draw inspiration from a poem held dear by one of our teachers:

***'He who gives a child a treat
Makes joy-bells ring in Heaven's street
And he who gives a child a home
Builds palaces in kingdom come.....'***

('In as much as you have done it' by John Masefield)

Policy aims: The aims of our policy:

The aims can be simplified by stating clearly that we want everyone (adults and children) to be kind, gentle and safe.

Links with other policies:

This policy is closely linked to the following policies that currently exist in school:

- Special Educational Needs policy
- Reasonable force/safe handling policy
- Health and Safety

Strategies used within St Clare's Abbey Nursery to promote positive behaviour:

Influence of St. Francis' & Blessed Edmund Rice's teaching.

In Nursery, we do not have an exhaustive list of strategies for promoting positive behaviour. Rather we recognise that each staff member is fully committed to our school ethos and our mission statement and uses his/her own little strategies in a caring way to get everyone to the same destination. ***All concur with his belief that humiliation and harshness are not nurturing strategies.***

However, we recognise that it is good practice to provide clarity for people who are experiencing St Clare's Abbey Nursery from beyond the classroom e.g., parents, governors etc. Therefore, following reflection, we have outlined the procedures that we use to promote good behaviour in our Nursery Unit.

- Prevention – anticipation and removal of potential problems.
- Interaction – plenty of adult attention.
- Praise or reward – all adults should offer explicit praise for good behaviour, for example turn taking, sharing, listening – drawing attention to the good.
- Provision – provide physically challenging and emotionally satisfying activities for engagement in learning.
- Clear expectations applied in a positive way.
- Leading by positive examples from adults.

Procedures for dealing with unwanted behaviour:

- Re-direction – distract to another activity or join in with activity.
- A clear explanation of why the behaviour is unacceptable – using visuals where appropriate.
- Speak calmly, clearly and firmly to gain control.
- Give a warning of the consequence if the behaviour does not stop.
- Use the consequence, for example, removal from the situation, or removal from the toy.
- A fresh start afterwards.

Rewards

Rewarding children encourages positive behaviour and fosters good relationships.

We reward to:

- Recognise effort.
- Encourage participation.
- Encourage perseverance.
- Provide reassurance.
- Develop desirable attitudes and safe boundaries.

We reward by:

- Praising verbally.
- Teacher interaction.

Sanctions

Sanctions are sometimes necessary to maintain a safe and effective learning environment. When such action is necessary, it is essential that the focus is on the negative behaviour, rather than on the child.

We use sanctions to:

- Ensure children's safety.
- To emphasise the seriousness of specific activities.
- To demonstrate consistency.

When using sanctions, we will:

- Explain what the child has done wrong in language which is appropriate to their age/stage of development.
- Remind them of the safety boundary and the reason for it.
- Redirect the child's play.
- Withdraw the child from the activity where the behaviour occurred.
- Inform parents of serious or persistent behavioural problems.

Where unsafe behaviour continues, a risk reduction action plan may be considered in consultation with parent and school SENCO, Mrs Toner. Similarly, the EA Behaviour Support Team may be involved where deemed necessary in this case. *See SEN policy.

Arrangements for monitoring the effectiveness of this policy: SLT alongside nursery lead, Mrs Gallagher, will monitor the effectiveness of the policy by discussing behaviours of worrying pupils with relevant staff and establishing how implementation of this policy is helping with the management of same. The policy will be reviewed and updated each year as per the school's policy review timetable.