

Temple Carrig School

Chaplaincy Policy

The Chaplaincy team are a faith presence in the school. The role of the Chaplaincy Team is to provide pastoral care to students, parents and staff members alike, as well as to encourage the development of faith among the community. The Chaplaincy Team provide an open door where all the school community can receive support in a safe and confidential manner. The Team work closely with the school Guidance Counsellor, Form Teachers, Year Heads, Deputy Principal and Principal to achieve this and to promote a school environment where the wellbeing of its members is emphasised.

School Ethos

Chaplaincy in Temple Carrig School is guided by the School's Statement of Ethos, in particular certain key sections:

The school is faith based, Christian in ethos in the tradition of the Church of Ireland and seeks to promote the moral and personal values inherent in this tradition and faith among the entire school community and in all aspects of the education of our students. This objective informs all elements of school life and underpins the school's commitment to the promotion of wellbeing within the whole school community.

and later

The religious ethos of the school is central to school life and to the values passed on to our students. This is a lived ethos which derives its strength and currency from the school's strong links with the local Church of Ireland community. The lived message of Christian values which informs both school life and the characteristic spirit of the school goes beyond any individual community, however. The school brings together students from disparate religious and ethnic backgrounds and educates them equally in the personal and moral values of our faith tradition.

In all matters, Chaplaincy in Temple Carrig School operates in coherence with this Ethos.

Aims and Objectives of Chaplaincy in Temple Carrig School

The Chaplaincy Team aim to

- Provide opportunity for spiritual expression in the school community.
- Promote faith development of students and staff.
- Acknowledge and provide for the spiritual and pastoral needs of students.
- Collaborate in the provision of pastoral care for students.

- Engage in the school community and contribute to the overall wellbeing of those who are part of it.

Objectives of the Chaplaincy Team

- Foster an awareness of spirituality within the school and provide students with opportunities to reflect on their own spirituality through assemblies, services and retreats.
- Promote the faith development of students through pastoral care, assemblies, classes and other school activities, while respecting the freedom of the religious and personal conviction of each student. Students will be provided with the opportunity to take part in and attend services of celebration periodically during the year.
- Communicate the value of all religious traditions, and to encourage respectful discussion about them as part of religious education classes.
- Be a part of the school community by being involved in the life of the school and being present at major events in the student's school life.
- Be available for students and staff alike by providing an open door for both to have space to talk and be listened to.
- Know all students within the school and to meet with some individually on a pastoral basis, and in collaboration with form teachers, the Guidance Counsellor and the Pastoral Care team.
- To be a link with local churches, by providing opportunities for guest clergy and speakers from various denominations to speak at assemblies and classes.
- Seek opportunities for students to become involved in outreach activities in their community e.g Five Loaves.
- Acknowledge and respect the right of students and staff to confidentiality.
- Professional confidentiality is necessary, however the Chaplain does not work in isolation and as part of the pastoral care team, will record details digitally from each session and inform the Guidance Counsellor or Principal if a student shares information about self-harm or suicidal ideation.
- Refer on to Guidance Counsellor where appropriate.

Chaplaincy Provision

Whole School

- Welcome and Prayer at beginning of school year.
- Regular sharing of reflections and prayers at assemblies during the school week.
- Opportunity to be part of and attend regular services e.g Christmas Carol Service, Easter Service, Start and End of year services.
- Provision of Pastoral care and support via one-to-one meetings in the Chaplaincy Office.

First Year

- Introduction to the Chaplaincy Team at induction nights and first days of school.

- Prayer and welcome at Assembly on the first day of school with brief description as to the role of the Chaplaincy Team.
- Involvement in setting up and maintaining Memory Tree in November.
- Chaplaincy Team take three 1st year religion classes every week during the year and cover topics such as community, co-operation and Jesus' parables

Second Year

- Chaplaincy Team take three 2nd year religion classes every week during the year and cover the major religions of the world.
- Chaplaincy Team also aim to meet every Second year student one-to-one to check in on how they are doing.

Third Year

- Chaplaincy Team take 3rd year religion classes, teaching morality for the first part of the year, and running an Youth Alpha Course for the latter half.

Fourth Year

- Chaplaincy Team take two 4th year classes throughout the year and use the NUA faith discussion series.

Fifth Year

- The team will be available to organise one-to-one meetings when necessary and to offer a safe place for students to speak and be heard.