

St Michael's PS

Dunnamanagh



**SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION
INCLUSION POLICY**

Signature of Chairperson of Board of Governors: _____

Signature of Principal: _____

Date approved: _____

Completed: 4th February 2020

Review Due: February 2022

INCLUSION POLICY

The Governors and Staff of St Michael's PS believe the school to be a vital part of the Catholic Community. We are firmly committed to:

- the aims of Catholic Education;
- providing a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that our children develop their full potential;
- developing positive relationships within our school and with our parents and the wider parish community;
- creating a welcoming educational community centred on Christ so that His values and Gospel message pervade the whole life of our school;
- establishing a caring Catholic ethos with a positive pastoral care system; and
- fostering within our children the ideals of tolerance, respect and understanding for different faiths and cultures.

In St Michael's PS, we value the individuality of all of our children. As a staff we are committed to giving each child at our school every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards, to foster an attitude of caring for learning and enabling the opportunity for every pupil to shine. This policy helps to ensure that this happens for all the children in our school – regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity, attainment or background.

Definition

"Inclusion is the process of planning to meet and of meeting the needs of all children and young people within the cultures, curricula and communities of schools in the fullest way possible, given:

- **their rights, wishes and the extent of their needs**
- **the rights, wishes and needs of their peers, and**
- **the rights, wishes and needs of those adults who are responsible for them both at home and at school"**

(NI Strategy Group)

Key Principles

- **Valuing Diversity:** All children can learn and are the responsibility of the education service. They should be equally valued. Children present a rich and diverse range of strengths and needs. Diversity is not viewed as a problem to be overcome, but a rich source to support the learning of all. Inclusion is most likely to be achieved when this diversity is recognised and regarded positively.
- **Entitlement:** All children are entitled to receive a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum. As far as possible, this should be in a local mainstream school. It is, however, recognised that appropriate support, advice and resources may be necessary to achieve this.
- **Participation:** Inclusion is concerned with fostering mutually sustaining relationships between schools and communities. All children and their parents

are entitled to be treated with respect and should be actively encouraged to make their views known so that they can be taken into account.

- **Individual Needs:** Inclusion is concerned with the learning and participation of all children vulnerable to exclusionary pressures, not only those with impairments or those categorised as having 'special educational needs'. Inclusion involves reviewing the cultures, policies and practices in schools taking into account the diversity of children in our locality.
- **Collective Needs:** There should be a balance between the needs of the individual and the collective needs of the group within which he/she is located and between the rights of the individual and the school's responsibilities to the group.
- **Professional Development:** Inclusion is concerned with improving schools for staff as well as for children. Inclusion requires both extension of existing skills and the development of new ones. All staff need to be supported and have access to a range of appropriate courses, advice and resources.
- **Collective Responsibility:** Inclusion in St Michael's P.S. is the responsibility of the whole school community; Teachers, Pupils, Auxiliary and Ancillary Staff, Parents and Governors.

From Principles to Practice

Inclusive principles highlight the importance of meeting the individual needs of all children. We are dedicated to meeting the individual needs of each child. We see Inclusion as a process in which pupils, parents or carers, teachers and other agencies or departments work together in partnership to develop the application of its principles in each setting.

In order to promote and develop these principles, St Michael's P.S. will ensure equality of opportunity for all our children. We make this a reality through the attention we pay to the different groups of children within our school.