

## Pastoral Care

Our aim as a school is to meet the individual needs, foster the aptitudes and nurture the growth of each child enable them to become their best selves in the fullest sense.

We understand education to mean all that a child learns from the world of school. We believe that emotional and social wellbeing and growth, self-esteem and confidence are of prime importance in themselves and are inextricably linked with academic progress

We believe that respect for children, faith in children and an ability to see the world through their eyes should inform our teaching and our care. Indeed, we see teaching primarily as an act of care.

### The Hidden Curriculum

We remember little of what we were taught as children. We remember a great deal about how we were treated. Children absorb and learn from the values embodied within their environment as much as they learn what they are explicitly taught. Confidence, security, trust and self-esteem at school will come from the way that children are treated by teachers within and beyond the classroom. As one of our leavers, bullied at his previous school,



## Pastoral Action

If pastoral monitoring ensures that we notice any concern, it is essential that this should be translated into action to benefit a child.

- Sometimes, a concern is vague—~~is~~ a child making sufficient effort? Is a child unhappy in the playground? In such circumstances, 'blind' monitoring of a child may be used, whereby staff record their observations of a child, within and/or beyond the ~~class~~ room, to gather further information with regard to any difficulty.
- Sometimes, if the concern is clear, it will be beneficial for the child to be involved in such monitoring,

### Major Unhappinesses

It is inevitably the case, in a school of the size of St John's and in the world in which we live, that some of our children will, at some time, experience major trauma. The serious illness of a parent, a family bereavement, the separation or divorce of parents are all part of the life of our community. In such circumstances, special care is taken of the children.

We can refer parents to bereavement counsellors, child and family therapists and divorce counsellors who will work in close cooperation with us to ensure the best outcome for the child. Often, children will 'bury' an unhappiness until they are ready to deal with it. With bereavement, for instance, difficulties can often arise about two years after the event, and we keep a careful note of all vulnerable children to ensure that their circhSeveT26oWf arrV