



**Fortiter et
Humaniter**

Portadown College Pastoral Care Policy

Rationale

At Portadown College it is our goal to place each student at the heart of a happy, supportive and purposeful learning environment in which the individual can make a unique and valued contribution to school life.

Aims

The College motto *Fortiter et Humaniter* (With Courage and Courtesy) underpins our four core values of:

- nurturing the individual;
- respecting ourselves and others;
- serving our local and global community;
- encouraging lifelong learning.

The welfare of students in Portadown College is based on our shared understanding and practice of these core values. We therefore seek to:

- encourage students and staff to see the College as a community with a secure, caring and engaging environment;
- provide a pastoral curriculum which relates to the development of the whole student by recognising and developing individual potential in personal, academic, vocational and social spheres;
- promote self-esteem and develop our students' resilience, independence and inter-personal skills;
- allow students to explore their own attitudes, values and life choices;
- encourage smooth, successful transitions at key stages in each student's educational pathway;
- enable every student to take responsibility for his/her own learning and career choices;
- establish positive partnerships with parents and external agencies to understand and support the needs of individuals;
- ensure that at least one teacher in the College - the Group Tutor - has daily contact with each student and has some knowledge of individual needs and development.

Pastoral Care Structure

Pastoral Care is co-ordinated by a Vice Principal and the Pastoral Team of Year Heads.

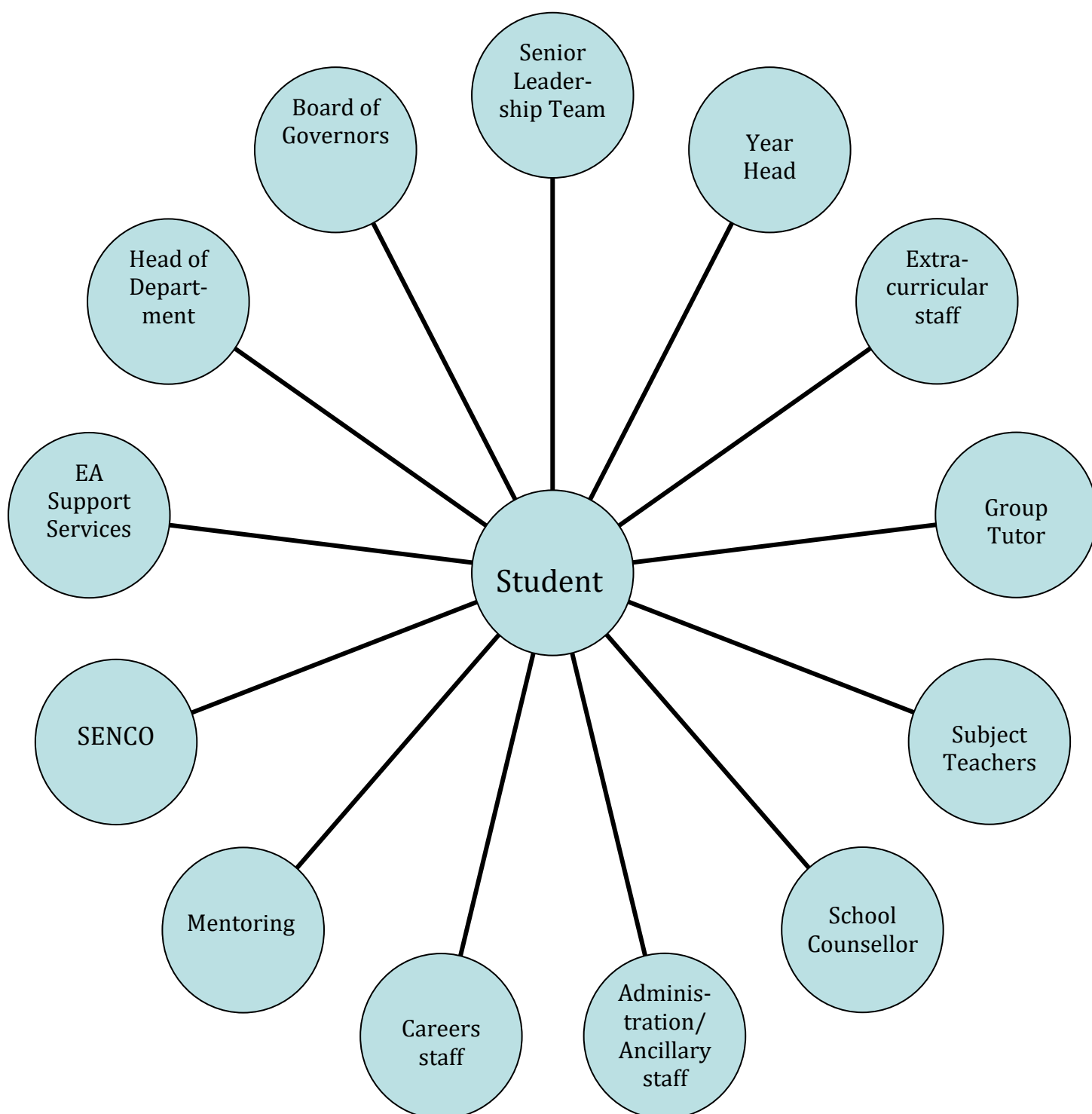
The Year Head oversees the holistic welfare of all students in the year group with regard to their personal, social and academic progress. The Year Head also co-ordinates the team of Group Tutors. Year Heads and Group Tutors remain with their group throughout their College career to provide "continuity of care" for each student in the year group, thereby supporting the learning development and welfare of each student.

It is also the responsibility of the Year Head to liaise closely with subject teachers, Heads of Department and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) concerning all aspects of student welfare.

As a College community, it is our belief that all teachers should have a caring commitment to guide and advise students. Staff therefore contribute formally and informally through daily registration, teaching and extra-curricular activities. All staff have responsibility for encouraging students to maintain high standards of attendance, behaviour, appearance and punctuality.

Administrative and ancillary staff support the teaching staff in monitoring attendance, first-aid and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for learning.

The support of a number of services is available to students including a School Counsellor and REACH Mentors, who visit the College each week, Educational Welfare Officer, Medical Services, Social Services and Careers Personnel. These combine to meet the varied and often complex needs of our students.



Personal Development (PD)

Students undertake a Personal Development programme in Years 11, 12, 13 and 14.

The pastoral care of our students means responding to their needs at a period in their lives when they are developing and acquiring a wide range of knowledge and life skills. Consequently, our PD curriculum seeks to:

- guide them in the formation of values and attitudes;
- help them develop good social, personal and inter-personal skills;
- nurture their self-esteem, resilience and independence;
- promote good physical and mental health;
- enable them to make informed decisions;

The PD curriculum is regularly reviewed to ensure that it is meeting the needs of our students.

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Careers Guidance with specialist and assistant teachers is an integral part of the programme from Years 11 to 14.

In Portadown College CEIAG seeks to promote:

- awareness and development of personal skills and qualities relevant to the world of work;
- the development of key employability skills for successful recruitment and retention;
- preparation for key decision points, leaving school and the transition to adult and working life;
- the ability to adapt to a rapidly changing labour market through CEIAG research and encouraging lifelong learning.

Assemblies

The system of whole school and Year assemblies provides the opportunity for an act of worship during which issues are explored within a Christian ethos and the values of the College are promoted. Assemblies also provide an opportunity to celebrate student success and for students to promote the wide range of activities and events which take place in College.

Encouraging Participation in College Life

Students are actively encouraged to participate in a variety of enriching school experiences through which they can assume roles of responsibility, work with others and contribute to decision-making about aspects of College life. These include extra-curricular activities, participating in provincial and nationwide competitions, inter-house competitions and the Student Voice.

The College Prefect system also affords Year 14 students, as selected by their peers and staff, opportunities to develop as role models and to lead the student body.

Parents in Partnership

The College encourages mutual respect by developing good staff/student relationships both within and outside class. Each student is afforded the best possible opportunities for achievement through high expectations, personal targets, support and encouragement.

We believe that the fostering of trust and good relationships with the parents/carers of our students is very important. A close partnership between home and College should help ensure that all our young people learn and develop to their full potential in a caring, supportive and safe environment. Good communication with home is essential if we are to achieve this.

If parents have any concerns about any aspect of their son/daughter's education they are encouraged to contact the College. Pastoral issues should be referred in the first instance to the relevant Year Head and curriculum matters to the relevant Head of Department in the first instance.

The Pastoral Care Policy should be read in conjunction with the following College Policies which are available on request from the College Office and at www.portadowncollege.com

- Child Protection Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Special Educational Needs
- Drugs Policy
- Relationships and Sexuality Education(RSE) Policy

Policy updates agreed by the Board of Governors June 2015.

Policy updates agreed by the Board of Governors 12 March 2020.