



Brackley Church of England Junior School

'We are a Caring, Celebratory, Courageous, Christ-inspired Community rooted in love.'

Pastoral and Family Support Policy

Policy Ownership	ETHOS
Statutory Requirement	No
Date reviewed & adopted by committee	26 th June 2025
Review Date	26 th June 2027

"Life in all its fullness"



Brackley Church of England Junior School



Pastoral & Family Support Policy

School Values

'We are a Caring, Celebratory, Courageous, Christ-Inspired Community rooted in love.'

Statement of Intent:

At Brackley Junior School, a Church of England school, our pastoral and family support provision is a living expression of our Christian foundation. Guided by our core values of being a **Caring, Celebratory, Christ-inspired Community rooted in Love**, we strive to create a nurturing environment where all children and their families feel loved, valued, and supported.

We believe that every child is made in the image of God and is uniquely precious. Our pastoral care seeks to reflect God's love in action through compassion, understanding, and practical support.

This policy applies to all staff, governors, pupils, and families. It outlines our shared commitment to pastoral and family support as part of our whole-school ethos, underpinned by our Christian distinctiveness.

Aims of the Policy

- To uphold the dignity and worth of every child, promoting their emotional, social, and spiritual well-being.
- To provide timely, sensitive support for families, rooted in Christian compassion and care.
- To foster a school community that reflects Christ's teaching through empathy, justice, and inclusion.
- To ensure children flourish in all aspects of their lives - academically, personally, and spiritually.
- To exemplify the core values of Brackley Junior School through being:
 - Caring** - Recognising each child's individual strengths and achievements.
 - Celebratory** - Rejoicing in each child's individual strengths and achievements.
 - Courageous** - Encouraging and empowering children and families to show courage in expressing their feelings, trying new strategies, and trusting in the loving support of our community.
 - Christ-Inspired** - Guided by Jesus' example of supporting and caring for everyone.
 - Community** - Building strong, trusting relationships with families and external partners.
 - Rooted in Love** - Every act of support is grounded in God's love for each individual.

Pastoral Support Provision

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Staffing and Roles

- **Whole-School Responsibility:** At BJS, all members of staff - whatever their role - are active contributors to nurture support. This support is not limited to a few designated individuals but is a shared, collective responsibility rooted in our Christian values. Whether teaching staff, administrative staff or site personnel, every adult in school plays a vital role in modelling love, respect, empathy, and consistency for the children in our care. For nurture support to be truly effective and outstanding, it is essential that all staff recognise their role in this collective mission and consistently act as positive role models. This approach builds trust, fosters security, and ensures that every child experiences compassion and encouragement throughout their day.
- **SENCo:** Supports pastoral care by identifying additional needs and coordinating tailored support. They ensure joined-up care with staff, families, and external services.
- **Pastoral Lead:** Coordinates whole-school emotional and social support.
- **Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants:** Daily front-line care, forming positive relationships based on respect and understanding.
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Oversees safeguarding and child protection in alignment with our Christian duty to protect.
- **Well-being and mental health support:** Provide targeted interventions with compassion and sensitivity.
- **ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant):** Deliver in-depth, specialist emotional support tailored to the individual needs of children. Our Pastoral and Family Support Manager is a trained ELSA who works one-to-one or in small groups to address emotional literacy, self-esteem, anxiety, grief, anger, and social skills, offering a trusted, safe space for children to explore and manage their feelings.

Interventions and Support

These may include – but are not limited to:

- One-to-one pastoral mentoring
- Nurture and social skills groups
- Emotional literacy development with the ELSA
- Reflective opportunities
- Bereavement and trauma support
- Signposting to counselling or chaplaincy services

At BJS, we are committed to responding promptly and compassionately to the needs of our children. In line with this, nurture and emotional support are provided as part of our universal school provision, and formal permission from parents is not required for this support to be initiated.

However, we greatly value the partnership we have with parents and carers, and we communicate openly and sensitively with families when additional support is being regularly offered. This dialogue ensures that families feel informed, respected, and reassured that any interventions are carried out in the child's best interests, and in a manner consistent with our Christian values of care and community.

Specialist Nurture Provision

Some children and families in our school need additional, specialist nurture support. This enhanced support is a fundamental characteristic of our school and, unlike the more general nurture provision outlined above, is not commonly found in most primary schools. It reflects our deep commitment to our values and to providing a truly inclusive, faith-inspired education.

This support may include:

- Intensified emotional support and mentoring
- Flexible, bespoke provision to meet complex needs
- Collaborative plans involving external professionals and parents/ carers
- Home visits during school holidays to provide families with further support, help, or advice when needed

Family Support Provision

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Working with Families

- A welcoming, non-judgmental ethos rooted in Christian hospitality
- Pastoral home visits when appropriate or when requested
- Support with parenting challenges, behaviour, routines, and emotional needs
- Workshops and drop-ins linked to family well-being

Support Services

- Referrals to Early Help, CAMHS, and local churches or charities
- Access to food support, uniform banks, and housing advocacy
- Emotional and spiritual support for parents/carers in crisis

Communication and Community

- Open-door policy for families
- Faith-informed communications celebrating achievements and unity
- Inclusion of families in Collective Worship and school celebrations

Safeguarding and Confidentiality

Our pastoral care is aligned with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. All concerns are handled with professionalism, discretion, and in the best interests of the child and/ or family. As a Christian community, we recognise our moral and legal duty to protect the vulnerable.

Training and Development

All staff receive ongoing training in:

- Emotional literacy and mental health first aid
- Safeguarding and child protection
- Trauma-informed and attachment-aware approaches
- Inclusive practices that reflect Christian values
- ELSA training for designated support staff

Evaluation and Monitoring

- Regular review of pastoral and family interventions
- Feedback from children, parents/carers, and staff
- Monitoring well-being trends through behaviour, attendance, and pupil voice
- Reflection on how our Christian ethos informs and enhances provision

As part of monitoring and evaluating of this policy, the SENCO plays a key role in reviewing the effectiveness of pastoral support for pupils with additional needs. This includes tracking outcomes of individual support plans, assessing the impact of interventions, and ensuring that emotional and social support is appropriately integrated with academic provision. The SENCO, together with the Pastoral and Family Support Manager, collaborates with staff, families, and external agencies to gather feedback, inform practice, and adjust provision to meet the evolving needs of the children. Their insight ensures that the policy remains responsive, inclusive, and aligned with our whole-school commitment to nurturing care.

Links to Other Policies

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour and Relationships Policy
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Collective Worship Policy
- Equality and Inclusion Policy