



Horizon School Pastoral Policy

(This policy is based on 'Every Child Matters'.)

Rationale

Children at Horizon will be safe, healthy and happy.

Aims

We will ensure that children are safe and feel safe.

The physical environment complies with the Municipality and Ministry regulations. The caretaking staff, school nurse, development manager and SMT take responsibility for the physical environment. All staff and children are expected to take care of the school premises.

Emergency evacuations are practised regularly.

The structure and routines are adhered to and expectations of behaviour, uniform and manners are understood.

The structure and routines help children settle and give a feeling of belonging to the school community.

The bullying policy is in place and works well.

The school's 'Golden Rules' emphasise taking care of each other.

Children are aware that teachers and parents communicate and there is a high level of parent involvement in the school.

We will encourage a healthy life-style

Children's snack boxes are monitored and discussion takes place with parents if found to be lacking in healthy options.

The school nurse provides necessary medical support and monitoring of children through guidelines of ministry of Education. She provides workshops for children and supports the PSHE programme in school.

Healthy eating is a regular topic of study in our science programme.

Physical activity is encouraged within our wide-ranging PE programme, team games and the After-school Activity Programme.

Children are assessed physically against expected developmental guidelines and development is monitored.

The school nurse will provide dietary and exercise advice for parents when deemed necessary.

We will do everything possible to ensure that every child is happy.

It is accepted that only happy children learn.

The ethos of Horizon is one of respect and concern for others.

Where children suffer a specific cause of unhappiness, such as bereavement or divorce, the relatively small, 'family' atmosphere ensures they are supported by everyone at school. In such cases, we work closely with the family.



Children are listened to and every effort is made to help them to resolve even small problems.

Guidance for Early Years, KS1, KS2

Being Safe

Circle time is a time to share and to sort problems and disagreements in consensus. Children are given independence and responsibilities commensurate with their age and always in a safe environment.

The way we speak to children is deemed to be important. Children are treated with respect. Positives are emphasised, all attempts and responses are valued and mistakes are recognised as a learning experience.

Difficulties or serious misdemeanours are discussed between teacher and/or parent and child only.

Being Healthy

Teachers will regularly check lunch boxes and discuss with parents if found to contain unsuitable foods.

Teachers will talk to the nurse if they have any concerns over their children's health.

Being Happy

The Golden Rules stress the care of others.

Children are given plenty of opportunities to work through friendship issues during circle time, with their peers or with an adult mentor.

Class activities are devised specifically so that children are learning the social skills essential for working together co-operatively and making friends.

Teachers are ready to listen to children and give them the necessary tools to sort out problems such as loneliness themselves, intervening only when it is necessary.

Special Educational Needs

Emotional support is provided through the Enhancement Department.

Mentoring/support is offered to children and parents by the SMT and school nurse.

Children are aware that teachers and parents communicate and there is a high level of parent involvement in the school.

Advice and referrals are made for specialists in the community for children and whole families (and staff) as the need arises.

Transition

It is acknowledged that transition from one Key Stage to another can be stressful for some children and everything possible is done to support children at these times.

As they enter KS1 or KS2, meetings have been held with previous teachers so the more sensitive children are known and nurtured.

As they enter KS1, the co-ordinator, who knows the children well and is known by the children, plays a part in settling them.

Several KS1 teachers have Foundation experience so are well equipped to help the children through this transition period.

The transition to KS2 is easier as the children are familiar with that part of the school and know many of the teachers.



KS2 classes do not have TAs and some children need support in the first term with taking full responsibility for their own belongings as they have relied too heavily on the KS1 Teacher Assistant.

Before the transition to KS3, we spend 7 years teaching them how to make new friends, be a good friend and support others. They know where to turn when they need support and they have been encouraged to be responsible and confident.

We have formed good relationships with the British colleges. Headteachers and ex-Horizon pupils come during Year 6 to talk to the children and parents. We encourage parents to take the children to the various college open days.

While moving to a new school for KS3 makes some children (and parents) nervous, we reassure them that we know from College feedback that Horizon children cope very well.

Pastoral Care of Staff

New teachers are given a great deal of information about living in Dubai.

They are supported well on their arrival and meet many colleagues at an informal coffee morning before school starts.

A 'buddy system' is in place before they arrive.

Team leaders do everything they can to help new teachers settle in.

Teachers who experience personal problems or sadness are well supported by colleagues, the school nurse, the SMT and the shareholders.

Equal Opportunities

Please see Equal Opportunities Policy.

This Policy was agreed by staff in November 2005.
It should be reviewed again in October 2006 by Head, Deputy and non-teaching coordinators.