



Pastoral Care  
at  
The Downs  
Preparatory School



### Safeguarding

The Assistant Headmaster (Pastoral and Prep) Mr Tom Westray, is the Designated Safeguarding Lead. He is supported by a three Deputies of Safeguarding: Miss Fulton the Head of Bertie's and the Pre-Prep, Mrs Payne another Assistant Head (curriculum and Pre-Prep) and the Deputy Head of Bertie's Miss Corlett. This safeguarding team works closely as necessary with external agencies.

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### The Form Teachers

In the Pre-Prep Form Teachers are responsible for monitoring most of the day to day care of the children in their class – academic and pastoral. They are ably assisted by Teaching Assistants. Within the Prep school three members of staff take a particular interest in each year group, the two nominated Form Teachers and a 'floating' reserve. These personnel are made clear to the community at the beginning of



### The Learning Support Department

The sensitive nature of the work in the Learning Support Department usually leads to close bonds between children, parents and members of the department. In such an environment children - and adults - often disclose worries and concerns albeit that the specific focus is to support academic progress. Social, emotional and academic development are then closely intertwined in this

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### A Listener; Myspace

Mrs Parker (member of the Pastoral Care Group) is the Officer of Wellbeing. She has some skills of a counsellor and an art therapist but her role is more of a listener. She offers 'Myspace' - a time and place when she is specifically available or on approach can make herself available to talk privately to the children of their worries. In this environment the children often confide in her and she is then able to consider the best means to support them using the network of care

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### Behavioural Management

The behaviour of the children in school is largely managed by the Assistant Heads of School although it is understood that it is the responsibility of all colleagues. There are very high expectations of behaviour at DPS and indeed these values are creditably often demonstrated by peer pressure. The Headmaster is kept well informed and ultimately will 'step in' as required.



### Matrons

The Matrons provide expert medical care for all the children however, their role inevitably includes a large element of pastoral support. They are 'listeners' for all the children - and their parents - and they are able to identify trends in the children's needs. They also take an active interest in the children's eating habits. The Matrons are central to the pastoral care provided in the school.



### AS Tracking

AS Tracking is a system recently implemented and managed by Mr Mann (Head of Prep School) and Mrs Parker (Officer of Wellbeing). It is a means to monitor the wellbeing of pupils in Year 5 – 8. AS Tracking is an electronic programme that enables the pupils to self-evaluate their wellbeing. Electronic assessments are carried out at the beginning of each academic year. The results are evaluated and in the case of

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### Mindfulness

Mindfulness is part of the PHSEE programme and on occasion it is used during lessons. It is an effective means to promote calm in the lives of busy children and adults. Work continues to equip all teachers at The Downs with the basic skills to deliver mindfulness at any time they feel it will benefit the children.



### External Consultants

In the event that children and their families require external professional support, there is a pathway to the school counsellor. The school also has direct access to coaches in mindfulness and kinesiology.