



BALLYDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL



BUDDY SYSTEM POLICY

Within the overall promotion of positive behaviour and pastoral care in Ballydown Primary school, a peer support arrangement known as the 'Buddy System' for P7 pupils was trialled during 2013-14.

Aims

The aims of the 'Buddy System' are to model and demonstrate co-operation, commitment, responsibility and overall positive behaviour. This reflects the core values and aims of both the positive behaviour, playground and pastoral care policies.

The **core values** at Ballydown Primary School are a shared belief in:

- The dignity and worth of each individual
- The development of the whole person.

All members of staff share these values and work to ensure a child-centred approach in which caring is a shared responsibility of all staff. These values underpin and shape all our school policies.

As stated in the **Positive Behaviour policy**, in Ballydown Primary School we strive for:



The aims of the Buddy System are to:

- provide the playground for children who feel anxious, sad, lonely or frightened.
- assist with practical tasks around school both in and outside the classroom.
- contribute to the curricular area of PDMU in school.
- develop confidence in younger pupils who can feel they have a 'big brother/sister' to whom they can turn.
- develop responsible pastoral attitudes and empathy for those who have the role of buddies.
- develop effective communication and see how it supports everyone through understanding and problem solving.
- Develop the ability to listen
- begin to understand how issues vary in importance.
- develop open communication for the benefit of all in school
- develop a caring culture of mutual respect

Practice

- The Buddy System operates on a rota basis with a boy and girl from P7 class on duty each week.
- Pupils take up the role of Buddy after signed consent is received from parents/carers.
- Training for pupils is provided by staff and instruction on the 'dos' and the 'don'ts' of the role are given.
- The importance of reporting when there is a concern is reinforced with the groups throughout the year.
- The expectation on P7 pupils to act as role models for the younger pupils is also addressed.
- Individual pupils who have specific social, emotional and behavioural issues may be assigned a buddy to model appropriate behaviour.

I have read and understood the Ballydown Primary School Buddy system policy and I give permission for my child:

to be involved in the Buddy system at Ballydown Primary School.

Signed -----

Date -----