



**HIGH
SCHOOL**
OF DUNDEE

Senior Years

**Pastoral Care
and Support**

Purpose of Pastoral Care

Pastoral care at the High School of Dundee is central to the wellbeing and development of every pupil. Our purpose is to support young people to be Real World Ready and this is rooted in the belief that young people thrive when they feel safe, supported, and understood. The pastoral system works collaboratively with all staff, pupils, and parents to create a nurturing environment that promotes emotional resilience, personal growth, and academic success.

The aim is to ensure that every pupil feels valued and has access to the support they need—whether that's during times of difficulty or in their everyday school life.

Key Team Members and Roles

Mr Andy Durward: Deputy Head, responsible for Pastoral Care leads the strategic direction of pastoral care across Senior Years, ensuring a cohesive and responsive support system for all pupils.

Mr Durward is responsible for Forms 1 – 3 and leads our comprehensive transition into Senior Years.



Mr Andy Durward

Principal Teachers of Pastoral Care & Support (PCS)



Mr Andrew Downie



Mrs Sarah Guy



Mrs Lucy Jack



Mrs Louise Baxter

The PCS team are the first point of contact for pupils and families, each family is linked with a member of the team when they join Senior Years, and they remain with them as they move up the school. They provide guidance, monitor wellbeing, and coordinate support strategies tailored to individual needs.

The PCS team also lead the development and teaching of our PSHE lessons. All pupils from Form 1 – 6 attend one lesson each week with their linked PCS teacher.

The PCS Hub: A Safe Space for Pupils

The PCS Hub is a cornerstone of the school's pastoral provision. It is designed to be a welcoming and non-judgmental space where pupils can take time out, seek support, or simply find a moment of peace during challenging times. Staff within the hub are trained to listen, support, and guide pupils through emotional or social difficulties.

Mrs Justine Porter: PCS Hub Coordinator

The PCS Hub is a dedicated safe space within the school where pupils can go when they are finding life difficult. The hub offers a calm, supportive environment for reflection, conversation, and emotional regulation.



Ms Natalie Mordente School Counsellor

Natalie Mordente provides professional counselling support to pupils, complementing the wider pastoral care offering. Counselling is a confidential and free service available to all pupils, helping them navigate emotional, social, and psychological challenges.



Through one-to-one sessions, Natalie supports young people in building resilience, improving self-awareness, and developing coping strategies. Her work is an essential part of the school's commitment to holistic wellbeing and early intervention.

Collaboration with the Learning Skills Team

The PCS team works closely with the Learning Skills Team, led by Mrs Jo Downie, to ensure that pupils receive holistic support. This collaboration bridges academic and emotional wellbeing, helping pupils develop strategies for learning, managing stress, and building confidence.

Working Together for the Betterment of Pupils

Effective pastoral care relies on strong partnerships between staff, pupils, and parents. The team encourages open communication, early intervention, and shared responsibility to ensure that every young person feels supported. By working together, the school fosters a culture of care, respect, and inclusion.

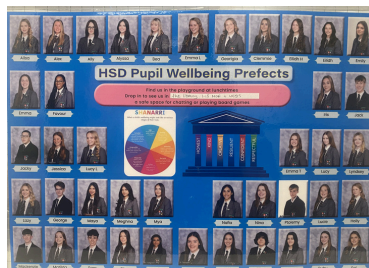


Exciting Initiatives

PCS Hub makeover – Our PCS Hub is in the process of a top to bottom makeover. Pupils have been feeding in with ideas for furniture, layout and activities. We love seeing this space grow and evolve.

Wellbeing Prefects

We have an outstanding team of Wellbeing Prefects in Forms 5 & 6, led by Mrs Sarah Guy. This coming year they are fostering a partnership with Feeling Strong: Dundee's youth mental health charity, whereby a group of wellbeing prefects will receive mentor training.



A separate group of Wellbeing Prefects are launching the Mentors in Violence Protection program.

Right Respecting Schools Award

Mrs Louise Baxter is looking to begin our Rights Respecting Schools journey for Senior Years and is building a team of Rights Respecting Prefects to drive this forward. The award recognises a school's achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice, both within the school and beyond.

Real World **Ready**

If you would like to get in touch with our
Pastoral Care & Support Team please
contact Mr Andy Durward
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highschoolofdundee.org.uk

