

# INVER BUDDY PROGRAMME POLICY



## **Scope of this document:**

For the purpose of this document a Buddy is defined as a volunteer student who has accepted the role of Inver Buddy for the academic year. A consultation has taken place between the organiser and Buddy and a set of roles and responsibilities has been agreed.

## **Relationship to School Mission Statement.**

In Inver College we create an educational environment, incorporating a wide range of interests and abilities of all of our students. We create situations formally and informally to foster the full potential of each student. In partnership with our community our school encourages self-reliance, and leadership in our students, and we continually highlight situations that equip students for life. Our school motto is central to Inver College. all our policies practices

The Inver Buddy program helps create a positive relationship between a senior student and a younger student thus aiding the settling in process and offering support to a new student in our school as they navigate a new journey.

## **AIMS:**

1. The Buddy will serve as a mentor, guide, and a role model for the younger student.
2. The program aims to develop and nurture positive and supporting relationships between the buddy and the younger student.
3. The program aims to contribute to better schools, brighter futures and foster a caring and inclusive school environment.
4. The program aims to help students to have a positive sense of self, better decision making and a commitment to learning.

### **Rationale for this policy**

Participation and engagement in the buddy system is voluntary and enables students to:

#### **The Buddy:**

1. Offer support and form a new friendship in the school.
2. Practice and develop new leadership skills
3. Ensure that there is an understanding of the new school environment, practices and procedures.
4. Provide a student with a companion in the school with whom they can link in

#### **For the 1<sup>st</sup> year student:**

1. Have a familiar person to link with who is there in a supportive role.
2. Establish a positive relationship with a student to act as a guide in their 1<sup>st</sup> year
3. Identify the wide range of supports on offer from their Inver Buddy
4. Establish good communication to address concerns or anxieties they may have

#### **Participation and engagement in the Buddy System:**

Ensure that they have a good support system in place and a person they can liaise with should a concern arise. Have a positive relationship with another student who is a support to them in their initial year.

#### **INTENDED APPROACH**

1. Liaise with School Completion Programme, Special Educational Needs Team, The Care Team and teachers of first and senior students.
2. Compile a list of students and link the first years with the senior students.
3. Communicate with first year students' parents who are on the buddy list.
4. Arrange training for the senior buddy.
5. Arrange an introductory meeting session between the senior buddy with their younger buddy.
6. Empower the senior buddy to plan and organize their program to work and meet with their buddy
7. It would be our intention to link all first years in the future with a senior buddy.
8. Liaise with all students regularly as to the requirements and further supports needed.

#### **Success Criteria:**

There is a positive relationship established between the Buddy and the 1<sup>st</sup> year student.  
The 1<sup>st</sup> year student feels supported on their journey through 1<sup>st</sup> year  
The Buddy has developed a positive relationship with the student.  
The Buddy has used new skills and developed their leadership capacity in this new role.

**Monitoring Procedures:**

1. The organiser will check in with the students and the Buddy regularly to ascertain the progress of the programme.
2. The Care Team will regularly acquire feedback from events in this programme and further support required.
3. All issues and suggestions for the programme are made to the organiser, Principal or Deputy Principal.

**Implementation**

This policy is operational from 3-12-24.

Ratified by the Board of Management

Aidan Campbell