

Scoil Náisiúnta Cúil an tSúdaire 2

Code of Behaviour

Reviewed	12/2/2010
Reviewed	12/9/2014
Reviewed	5/3/2015

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR**(EDUCATION WELFARE ACT 2000) SECTION 23****Introductory Statement**

The policy was drafted by staff of the school on a school planning Day in conjunction with Ms. Geralyn Costello, Planning Facilitator (School Development planning Support Primary) and was reviewed and updated in January 2009 and February 2010.

- This Code of Discipline is drawn up in accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2000 (Section 23).

IN IMPLEMENTING THE CODE OF BEHAVIOUR WE AIM TO:

- Guarantee the constitutional right of each child, to an opportunity to study and be educated without interruption.
- To foster and develop a healthy respect for authority, to protect the health and safety of each individual child and teacher.
- To protect the school property and equipment and hand it on safely to the next generation.
- To develop the self-esteem of each child and help in some small way to make life happier, more organised and calmer for all children.
- To foster a Christian ethos of fairness, honesty and equality.

TO TRY TO PREVENT MISBEHAVIOUR AND FOSTER GOOD BEHAVIOUR WE WILL:

- Try to build up a good relationship with every child and try to understand his personality and unique differences.
- Try not to marginalise any child avoiding statements like 'you are always' etc.
- Talk to the children in the classes constantly about good behaviour, acknowledge and thank individuals and groups for good behaviour.
- Use circle-time, group discussion, role-play and allow time and the opportunity for individuals to discuss their concerns.
- Model and highlight good behaviour by staying as calm as possible and behaving as quietly as humanly possible in the classrooms.

We will at all times strive to be as positive and preventative as possible, while recognising that some rules and sanctions will have to be invoked from time to time.

To facilitate this, we have drawn up a set of rules, which are most relevant to conditions that pertain to our school at the moment.

These rules will be applied consistently, fairly and firmly. We will adhere to the spirit of the rule rather than to the letter and will try first to understand why the behaviour is happening and speak individually to children.

General Points

- Each teacher in the school has the right and the responsibility to check all children in the school corridor, toilet, classroom or grounds during school hours.
- The school opens at 8.50a.m. each morning and closes at 2.30p.m. Children will be supervised in the yard from 8.40a.m. to 8.50 a.m. and from 2.30pm to 2.40 pm. The Board of Management cannot be responsible for children outside these times.
- The behaviour of children waiting for buses will be the parent's responsibility but the Principal and Board of Management reserve the right to protect the good name of the school and the school property.
- The Principal (or any other teacher), reserves the right to correct and discipline children while on the school tours and while travelling to or taking part in activities like sport, drama, church services, nature walks etc. which are organised by the school under the name of the school.

RULES OF THE SCHOOL

1. Obey and respect all teachers. Tell the truth.
2. No name-calling. Treat fellow pupils with caring and respect. Bullying is not acceptable. (For further details see School's Anti-Bullying Policy).
3. Do not leave the school grounds without permission. Stay off perimeter walls and gates.
4. No cycling in school grounds. (Bikes to be locked). Walk to the gate.
5. Violence of any sort will not be tolerated e.g. fighting, hitting, kicking, pushing etc.
6. No running or rough play in the building. No standing on furniture.
7. Respect the property of the school and others. No chewing gum in school.
8. No loitering in the toilets - use toilets, wash hands, then leave toilets.
9. Stay seated and quiet if the teacher leaves the classroom.
10. Put litter in bins. Reduce-Reuse-Recycle.
11. Leave and enter classroom in an orderly fashion. Don't push or run.
12. Always make an honest attempt at your schoolwork. Your best attempt is always good enough.
13. Wear prescribed school uniform. Details of uniform available from the school.

SANCTIONS OR PUNISHMENTS THAT MAY BE USED

1. Each teacher is responsible for discipline within the classroom. Teacher/teachers on yard duty at break times are responsible for discipline in the yard.

2. The school rules and the need for them will be explained to each class in terms appropriate to their age.
3. Following reasoning and reprimand if a child chooses to disobey the instructions or rules then the child will have to accept sanctions such as, but not necessarily in the order that is indicated.
 - (a) Separation from peers and friends.
 - (b) Extra work.
 - (c) Kept in for breaks.
4. If a child continues to be disruptive in class, the principal will record the child's name, date and incident. The principal will then explain the relevant rules and warn the child about future behaviour.
5. If a child continues to breach the Code of Behaviour and does not respond to verbal reprimand the principal will seek an appointment with the child's parents.
6. The principal, parents and class teacher will discuss the child's behaviour and explore possible reasons for it, the parents will be expected to undertake to support the school in expecting the child to abide by the Code of Behaviour.
7. Continued disruptive behaviour by pupil could result in suspension for a period not exceeding 3 days by the Board of Management and possibly lead to placement in another Primary School. (In accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National School amended by Circular 7/88).
8. This is the normal sequence of sanctions but if an incident is deemed serious or dangerous the principal in consultation with other members of staff can circumvent these steps.

It should be noted that the principal has the right to suspend a pupil in the event of gross misbehaviour.

APPEALS

Under Section 29 of the Education Act, 1998, parents (or pupils who have reached the age of 18) are entitled to appeal to the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Science against some decisions of the Board of Management, including

(1) permanent exclusion from a school and (2) suspension for a period which would bring the cumulative period of suspension to 20 school days or longer in any one school year. Accordingly, our school will advise parents of this right of appeal and associated timeframe if it has been decided to suspend or permanently exclude a pupil. Appeals must generally be made within 42 calendar days from the date the decision of the school was notified to the parent or student. (See Circular 22/02).

- Parents will be informed of their entitlement to appeal a decision of the Board of Management in relation to suspension or expulsion. Parents will be given a copy of Circular 22/02 and related forms.

PARENTS

The above may seem very serious but due to the hard work and good example of everyone especially you the parents we experience very little serious misbehaviour in the school and have a happy lively atmosphere where all the pupils work well having regard to their own unique ability and intelligences. We ask you to:

1. Take notes home seriously and act responsibly on them.
2. Please come to us first, and come early, if you have a concern.
3. Never discuss the school negatively with or in the child's hearing – as this does not help you child. Help out and take part.
4. Make sure your child:
 - (a) Wears prescribed school uniform.
 - (b) Has neat, clean hair in a reasonable conventional style.
 - (c) Has no dangling earrings, (sleeper studs only), no trailing long jewellery, toys including electronic gadgets or tipp-ex or similar products.
5. Make sure your child is in school punctually every day possible.
6. Check your child's footwear regularly and ensure that shoes are not torn and have a good grip.
7. Check homework is done and properly presented.
8. Give your child a proper, wholesome lunch (having regard to our Healthy Eating Policy).
9. Send in notes (dated please) for the following:
 - (a) When a child has been absent and is returning to school.
 - (b) When a child needs to leave school at any time.
 - (c) When home-work is not done or finished.
 - (d) When you want your child to stay in the classroom during break if not well.

In this important matter of discipline we ask for and expect the full co-operation of parents. We ask you to keep up the good work and help make our school a better, safer and happier place for all the pupils and staff.

This policy has been reviewed by the B.O.M. on March 5th 2015 at a meeting of the board.

The overall responsibility for the everyday implementation of this policy lies with the principal and class teachers.

Signed: _Leslie Stevenson
Chairperson, Board of Management
5/3/2015

Signed: Beth Burns
Beth Burns, Principal
5/3/2015