

Code of Behaviour

Introduction:

This Code of Behaviour was devised by staff in consultation with the Board of Management and Parents' Representatives.

Rationale:

The policy is drawn up with reference to guidelines set out by the Dept. of Education and to our legal requirement under the Education Welfare Act.

The Policy outlines:

- A. General guidelines for good behaviour
- B. The standard of behaviour that should be observed by each pupil
- C. The measures to be taken when a child fails to observe these standards
- D. The procedure surrounding the suspension and expulsion of a child.

A. General Guidelines for Good Behaviour-

The school is a community and to promote a sense of community, children are expected to show a high level of co-operation with fellow pupils and staff. Staff are expected to foster this sense of community to be respectful to pupils and fellow members of staff. The rules should be fair and implemented fairly to ensure this sense of community and foster an environment where learning is enjoyable and effective.

- B. The standard of behaviour that should be observed by each pupil. Each pupil is expected to attend school, to be punctual and dressed in accordance with the school uniform policy. Each child is expected to be well behaved and to show respect for fellow pupils, staff and property. Each child is expected to do his/her best in school. The school rules are outlined in Appendix 1.
- C. The measures to be taken when a child fails to observe standard. Every member of staff has a responsibility for the implementation of this code of Discipline. Staff should treat all children with respect and promote a positive atmosphere.

Staff put more emphasis on the rewarding of good behaviour as opposed to the sanctioning of poor behaviour.

Teachers promote a happy, respectful environment in their classrooms. They use various strategies to promote good behaviour, such as Golden Time, Star Rewards, homework passes etc.

Parents are expected to support their children by co-operating with the school in implementing the Code of Discipline.

The purpose of sanctions is to promote positive behaviour. Sanctions will be applied according to the gravity of the misbehaviour with due regard to age and emotional development.

The following stages show disapproval of inappropriate behaviour and offer the child an opportunity to put the bad behaviour and its consequences behind him/her.

- Reasoning
- Verbal reprimand
- Temporary removal from group
- Note to parent
- Carrying out useful tasks in school
- Extra work
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Referral to Principal
- Referral to Board
- Suspension
- Expulsion

Classification of Misbehaviour:

Misbehaviour falls into 3 categories: Minor, Serious , Gross

Minor:

The following are examples of minor misbehaviour –

Late arrival at school on a regular basis, Interrupting Class work, Not following teacher's instruction, Not wearing proper uniform.

Serious:

Constant occurrence of minor misbehaviour, Telling lies, Damaging property, Disrespectful to teacher or fellow pupils, Unacceptable language, Continued disobedience

All incidents of bullying will be dealt with under the school Anti-bullying Policy.

Gross Misbehaviour:

Constant occurrence of serious misbehaviour. Behaving in a way that puts fellow pupils or staff in danger. Deliberate injury of pupil or staff. Aggressive or threatening or violent behaviour towards a member of staff.

D. The Procedures Surrounding the Suspension and Expulsion of a child.

Before serious sanctions such as Suspension or expulsion are used all other efforts should have failed.

Immediate Suspension may be used for acts of gross misbehaviour.

Suspension will be in accordance with the rules for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000.

In the case of gross misbehaviour, where it is necessary to ensure that order and discipline are maintained and to secure the health and safety of pupils and teachers, the Board has deferred responsibility to the Principal to sanction an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding three school days, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents.

Further suspensions will require Board of Management approval. This approval may be obtained at a regular meeting of the Board or at an emergency meeting at which the Chairperson and Principal have outlined for the Board the reasons why they feel it is necessary to impose a further suspension. In line with the requirements of the Education Welfare Act (2000), the Board of Management will inform the Education Welfare Board when any pupil's period of suspension equals or exceeds six school days.

When a student is suspended, the parents/guardians will be requested to remove the student from the school. The Principal will meet with the parents/guardians to outline the decision to implement the suspension and will present the parents/guardians with a written statement of terms, duration and date of the termination of the suspension.

Removal of Suspension (Re-instatement)

Following, or during a period of suspension, the parent/s may apply to have the pupil reinstated to school. The parent/s (and pupil) must give a satisfactory undertaking that a suspended pupil will behave in accordance with the school code and the Principal must be satisfied that the pupil's reinstatement will not constitute a risk to the pupil's own safety or that of the other pupils or staff and will not have serious detrimental effect on the education of other pupils. The Principal in consultation with the parents, the class teacher and the pupil (if appropriate) will facilitate the preparation of a behaviour plan for the pupil, if required, and will re-admit the pupil formally to the class.

Where a satisfactory resolution of a problem is achieved, a pupil may be re-admitted to school within a suspension period at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Board and the Principal.

Expulsion

The Board of Management has the authority to expel a pupil in extreme cases. See pages 80/81/82 “Developing a Code of Behaviour- Guidelines in School”.

Expulsion is considered a last resort and the school authority will have formed the opinion that all possibilities for changing the pupil’s behaviour have failed.

Appeals

Parents are entitled to appeal suspension and expulsion under Section 29 of the Education Act.

Records

Teachers and or Principal keep a record of incidents of misbehaviour.

Appendix 1

RULES OF THE SCHOOL

- 1 All children should be in their lines at 9am. Classes start at 9.10am.
- 2 The school uniform or tracksuit is worn at all times. Tracksuits are worn on days of P.E. or when directed to do so by the class teacher.
- 3 A written explanation for all absences must be provided.
- 4 Medical certification, may on occasion, be requested for a child’s illness.
- 5 Children remain seated during break time and may only leave their places with the permission of the teacher on duty.
- 6 Children walk to and from the classroom in an orderly fashion – no running.
- 7 Children are not allowed play any games in the yard that would put themselves or others in danger – e.g. fighting games, games with too many children running together, trains, build up.
- 8 The children’s behaviour in class must be of such a standard as to allow the teacher conduct the class without disruption and to allow other children learn to the best of their ability.

- 9 Children are to be courteous and respectful to all members of staff and visitors.
When children are on tour or representing the school they are expected to behave in a manner which would not be a discredit to the school
- 10 Mithing, vandalism of school property, the use of bad language and cheekiness are regarded as a serious breach of school discipline.
- 11 Aggressive threatening or violent behaviour towards a member of staff will be regarded as severe or gross misbehaviour.
- 12 Failure to complete punishment work is regarded as a severe breach of school discipline.
- 13 Bullying is regarded as one of the severe breaches of school discipline and is dealt with accordingly.