

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Aims:

- In devising the code, consideration has to be given to the particular needs and circumstances of this school. The aim is to create an ordered and orderly environment in which pupils can, through developing self-discipline, feel secure and make progress in all aspects of their development.
- Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school.

2. Principles

- The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to tolerate these differences.
- It is agreed that a high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school and a high level of co-operation among staff, parents and pupils.
- Every effort will be made to ensure that the code of behaviour is implemented in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner.

School rules

Safety: For my own safety and that of others-

- I should be careful coming to and going from school.
- I should remain seated at all times in class and while eating lunch and where required.
- I should always show respect for my fellow pupils.
- Bring a note of explanation following absences.
- I should never leave the school grounds without the permission of the Principal/class teacher.
- Pupils enter and leave the school building at all times in an orderly fashion.
- In the interest of safety pupils must walk within the school building and silence is expected while children are getting ready to enter/exit class i.e. while queuing, while changing shoes in cloakrooms etc.
- Pupils are expected to treat all staff members, themselves and each other with due respect and courtesy. Pupils are taught to stand back for an adult, to welcome visitors and to show respect for their elders.
- Bullying is never allowed. Any behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to be safe is unacceptable.
- Bad language is unacceptable. Inappropriate language if used towards a teacher or anywhere within the school is considered a serious breach of the code.
- We encourage pupils to wear their full school uniform
- Chewing gum, glass bottles, correction fluids, other solvents, matches, cigarettes, alcohol or drugs are not allowed.
- Jewellery is not allowed except for one small stud earring in the bottom of each ear and a watch.
- Make-up is not worn during school times
- Cycling in school grounds is forbidden
- We encourage children to bring healthy lunches (see Healthy Lunch Policy)

- Children are not allowed Mobile phones in class or on the school yard. If a child is found with a mobile phone it will be confiscated. In exceptional circumstances arrangements may be made between the principal and parents of the child to hold a mobile phone for a child in the office for use after school hours.
- We encourage hairstyles to be kept neat and conventional - with hair in its natural colour. For hygiene purposes hair should be tied back.
- Pupils must respect the school building and property. If any deliberate damage is caused, the parent/guardian will be responsible for the cost of repair/replacement.

Caring for myself

- I should respect my property, and myself always keeping my school bag, books and copies in good order.
- I should always arrive in school no later than 9.20a.m.
- I should show respect for my school and be proud to wear the complete school uniform every day.
- I should always be aware of my personal cleanliness.
- I should always bring a sensible, nutritional lunch to school.
- I should always do my best participating fully, working as hard as I can.

Caring at school: (adapted from the Golden Rules)

Children from Junior Infants - 6th classes will be reminded of these rules and will recite them and discuss them regularly. It is expected that the children will know them 'by rote' by the time they reach second class.

- Be kind and helpful, don't hurt people's feelings.
- Be gentle, don't hurt anybody.
- Be honest, don't cover up the truth.
- Look after property, don't damage or waste resources.
- Listen to people, don't interrupt.
- Work hard, don't waste time.

Homework

It is the policy of the school to assign homework on a regular basis. Parents/Guardians are strongly advised to take an active interest in their child's homework. (See homework policy)

(Strategies) Positive Affirmation During School

Praise may be given by means of any one of the following:

A quiet word or gesture to show approval

A comment or sticker in a pupil's exercise book

A visit to another member of Staff or to the Principal for commendation

A word of praise in front of a group or class

A 'circle time' approach to developing positive behaviour.

Delegating some special responsibility or privilege

A mention to parent/guardian written or verbal communication

Disapproval or unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with as follows: - (The nature of the behaviour will determine the strategy)

- Reasoning with pupils
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
- Communication with Parents
- Temporary separation from peers and/or loss of privileges
- Referral to Principal/Deputy-Principal
- Note to parents
- Take note of behaviour for meeting with Parents/Guardians
- Suspension/expulsion (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular 7/88).

Procedures:

The degree of misdemeanours i.e. minor, serious or gross will be judged by the teachers and/or Principal based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity/frequency of such misdemeanours.

Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with serious misdemeanours:

Inform Principal

Principal contacts Parents/Guardians

Teacher/Principal/Deputy Principal meets one/both parents/guardians

Chairperson of Board of Management informed and parents requested to meet with Chairperson/Board member and Principal.

School Environment:

We pride ourselves on our beautiful school grounds and setting and practise an environmentally friendly policy.

- Pupils are expected to value our school environment and to care for it. The playground is a litter-free zone.
- To protect the environment, the school is involved in various projects:
Composting: Fruit peels, pencil parings, etc. are collected for the purpose of composting
Recycling: Waste paper and cardboard are collected for recycling.
Battery/Mobile Phone Collection

All other empty cartons drink containers and wrapping papers are considered household waste and are taken home.

Behaviour in the Playground:

- All pupils have a right to enjoy their time out in the playground in a safe environment at break periods.
- Misdemeanour consists of any action that puts the safety of self or others at risk.
- Fighting, rough play or any physical force is never allowed or tolerated.
- In the interests of safety, climbing is strictly forbidden.
- The lower playground usually contains the senior classes.

- In the interest of safety when the bell rings during playtimes the children stop playing, and walk to their class lines. Children do not enter the school building without getting permission from teachers.

Wet days:

- Sharp implements are used only when a teacher is in the classroom
- Children do activities in class based on the class teacher's instructions or supervising teacher's instructions.
- Children are expected to stay in their places on wet days for seat/desk-orientated play.

Swimming days:

- Every pupil listens to and obeys the teacher.
- Children walk in line behind the teacher to the bus. No running allowed.
- No shouting or playing in dressing rooms.
- Every pupil listens to and obeys the instructor and life guard
- No running around pool area
- Swimming caps required and shower socks may be worn.
- Children do not leave the pool without permission from the teacher
- No jumping into the pool from the side - unless under the instructor's directions. No pushing or rough play in the pool
- Children are expected to dress quickly after each session
- Hairsprays/gels/spray deodorants are not allowed. Roll-on deodorants are allowed for 4th - 6th class pupils. Shampoo is not allowed.
- No drinks/sweets are bought from the machine.

Tour Rules:

- Pupils enter/leave the bus in an orderly manner
- Pupils are expected to arrive 10 minutes before departure time. Parents are expected to contact the school 15 minutes before departure time if child is sick or unable to attend.
- School Rules apply to school tours
- Teachers will have mobile phones on tour if parents/ children need to get in contact with one another. Otherwise please discuss with the teacher for exceptions.
- On the bus pupils must sit in their seats wear seat belts and avoid any loudness that would distract the driver
- Pupils wear uniform on school tours
- Parental/Guardian permission slips allowing a) the child to go on tour and b) the teacher the right to authorize any medical or surgical procedure necessary must be returned to the teacher prior to the tour.