

CODE

OF

DISCIPLINE

2018

Schools Ethos and Aims of Code of Discipline.

The ethos of our school is a major factor in establishing and maintaining high standards of behaviour. This points to the importance of a strong sense of community within the school and the existence of a high level of co-operation among teachers, ancillary staff, pupils, parents, Parent's Association and the Board of Management. This school places a great emphasis on the need to give the children every possible opportunity to develop patterns of good behaviour. The aim is to ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated for while at the same time acknowledging the right of each child to education in a relatively disruption free environment.

Aims of Code of Discipline

The code of discipline aims to achieve three things

- (a) The efficient operation of the school and the structuring of in-class discipline so that there exists an efficient and stimulating learning environment.
- (b) The maintenance of good order throughout the school and respect for the school environment.
- (c) The development of self-discipline in pupils based on consideration, respect and tolerance for others.

Principles of Discipline Policy

If the school is to achieve a happy, secure environment in which children can develop to their full potential, it is necessary to provide a framework, which promotes constructive behaviour and discourages unacceptable behaviour. Our school code places a greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions, and the ideal is that pupils will acquire the skills of self-discipline. There are times however when it may be necessary to impose sanctions in order to maintain good order, and to discourage offenders. The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences. School rules are kept to a minimum, and are devised with regard for the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community.

School Rules

If a school is to function efficiently, it is necessary that rules and regulations are clearly stated and enforced consistently and wisely.

1. **Respect and Courtesy:** All pupils are expected to treat staff, their fellow pupils and visitors with respect and courtesy at all times. The use of foul language and any form of bullying are unacceptable.
2. **The official opening is 9.20a.m.** Classes for infants end at 2.00p.m. Classes for the other pupils end at 3.00 p.m. No responsibility is accepted for the pupils outside of these times. Parents are expected to collect their children promptly.
3. **Absences:** Every absence of a child must be accounted for, either by forwarding a note or by making contact with the school. If a child wishes to leave school early, a written note must be given to the class teacher. Children must remain in their classroom until collected. We would, in so far as possible, discourages children from missing time or being late for frivolous reasons eg. shopping trips or birthdays.
4. **Illness:** Any infectious illness should be notified to the school immediately. Children who are unwell and not fit to participate in all school activities should be kept at home.
5. **Personal Property:** Children should have their names on their coats and other personal property such as schoolbooks, copies etc. No responsibility will be taken for personal property lost.
6. **School Property and the School Environment:** Pupils must respect all school property, and keep the school environment clean and litter free.
7. **Dress Code**
 - (a) The school uniform, in its entirety, must be worn from Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. This rule applies to all classes and all children for entire school year.
 - (b) The school tracksuit must be worn on Thursday and Friday. These changes of days allow for ample time for the washing and drying of both the uniform and the tracksuit. Hence there is no valid reason why a full uniform or tracksuit should not be ready to be worn on the appropriate days. No frivolous excuses, with or without a note, will be accepted for the non-wearing of the full uniform or the tracksuit.
 - (c) Uniforms and tracksuits that get torn, damaged or outgrown, must be repaired or replaced as soon as possible.

- (d) Sanctions for the non-wearing of the **full** uniform or tracksuit will be applied
 - (e) Runners are compulsory for P.E. for safety reasons.
 - (f) Indoor footwear must be worn **in all classrooms** for safety reasons and to protect the carpet. Socks will not suffice, for safety reasons.
8. No earrings to be worn by a child.

Behaviour in Class

1. Pupils must have all books and require materials
2. Pupils are expected to work to the best of their ability, and to present written exercises neatly.
3. They are to show respect for their classmates and to follow their teacher's instructions.
4. Any behaviour that interferes with the rights of others is unacceptable.

Behaviour out of class

1. Pupils must not behave in any way that endangers themselves or others.
2. Any instructions or directions given by the supervising teacher are to be complied with.
3. Children must line up in an orderly manner at the end of the break.
4. Any form of threatening behaviour is unacceptable. If children are being bullied, teachers must be told so that the matter can be dealt with effectively.

HOMEWORK

1. It is the policy of the school to assign homework on a regular basis.
Teachers shall make every effort to match the curriculum to the aptitude of the pupils. It follows, therefore, that homework assignments may vary from pupil to pupil.
2. Parents are strongly encouraged to take an active interest in their child's homework. If homework causes worry for the pupil, parents are asked to contact the teacher.
3. Parents should sign homework each night.

This is a mere summary of our policy of homework. Please check the Policy on Homework for greater detail

REWARDS FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR

1. The Board of Management has sponsored a Pupil of the Year scheme.
2. Certificates are given out on last school day of each month to pupils who have behaved consistently well. – See Criteria sheet.
3. A point table is kept on a class by class basis.
4. Oral and written praise. Pupil's journal is used to convey messages of approval from teachers. Yearly reports.
5. Small prizes, merit list, merit stars.
6. Golden Time
7. Extra privileges such as jobs, video at Christmas etc earned rotate jobs.
8. Good behaviour must be seen to be rewarded.

CLASSIFICATION OF MISBEHAVIOUR

We classify misbehaviour under the following headings:

- ❖ Very serious unacceptable behaviour
- ❖ Serious unacceptable behaviour
- ❖ Minor unacceptable.

Very serious unacceptable behaviour

1. Deliberate physical violence towards other children or teachers.
2. Threatening of or abusive language to other children or teachers.
3. Vandalism to property of the school or others.
4. Bullying of any form.
5. Stealing the property of others.
6. Telling lies.
7. Smoking
8. Leaving school premises without permission during school hours.

Serious unacceptable behaviour

1. Conduct unbecoming on school outings
2. Rough and dangerous play.

Minor unacceptable behaviour.

1. Littering.
2. Inattention in class
3. Disobedience
4. Chewing gum.

We recognise that there will be times when circumstances may affect the category into which the unacceptable behaviour falls. Minor misbehaviour may become serious and serious become very serious if repeated frequently.

The category into which the unacceptable behaviour falls will determine the sanction. This is not an exhaustive list and will, therefore be reviewed regularly and added to if and when deemed necessary.

Strategies and Sanctions.

1. Reasoning with pupil
2. Reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
3. Temporary separation from peers, friends and others.
4. Loss of privileges.
5. Partial or complete loss of Golden Time, Extra Curricular Activities, including games with other schools, excursions and school tour.
6. Detentions during breaks or after school hours.
7. Prescribing extra work
8. Referral to Principal.
9. Communication with parents:
 - (a) When there are three minor misdemeanours in a week, note sent to parents to be signed and returned.
 - (b) Extra work for weekend set by the Principal.
 - (c) Six misdemeanours in a term, parents are requested to visit the school.
 - (d) Major misdemeanour, parents invited to meet the Principal.

10. Suspension. Any suspension will be dealt with in accordance with Rule (130) (5) of the Rules for National Schools.

Teachers will keep a record of all serious misbehaviours as well as a record of improvements in the behaviour of disruptive pupils. Every effort will be made to have an emotionally disturbed child referred without delay for psychological assessment.

SUPERVISION BOOK

If class work due inattention or misbehaviour or homework is not completed the child/children will be detained at break times under supervision. A record will be kept of these detentions.

Health and Safety.

Children are not permitted to plug in or out electrical appliances eg. Kettle, computers