



Code of Behaviour

The aims of the Code of Behaviour of Scoil Mhuire N.S. are:

- To provide guidance for pupils, teachers and parents on behavioral expectations.
- To provide for the effective and safe operation of the school.
- To develop pupils' self-esteem and to promote positive behaviour.
- To foster the development of a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in pupils based on respect, consideration and tolerance of others.
- To facilitate the education and development of every child.
- To foster caring attitudes to one another and to the environment.
- To enable teachers to teach without disruption.

Implementation

- Every member of the school community has a role to play in the implementation of the Code of Behaviour. Rules will be kept to a minimum, emphasise positive behaviour and will be applied in a fair and consistent manner, with due regard to the age of the pupils and to individual difference.
- Good behaviour will be encouraged and rewarded. Where difficulties arise, parents will be contacted at an early stage.

General Guidelines for Positive Behaviour

1. Pupils are expected to treat all adults and fellow pupils with respect and courtesy at all times. Behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to feel safe is unacceptable.
2. Pupils are expected to show respect for all school property and to keep the school environment clean and litter free.
3. Pupils are expected to take pride in their appearance, to have all books and required materials and to be in the right place at the right time.
4. Pupils are expected to obey a teacher's instructions, to work to the best of their ability and to present assignments neatly.
5. Pupils are expected to attend every day unless there is a genuine reason for absence, in which case the school must be informed in writing, in person or by telephone message to the secretary, stating the reason for absence.

Bullying

- Bullying is repeated verbal, psychological or physical aggression by an individual or group against others. The most common forms of bullying are aggressive physical contact, name-calling, intimidation, extortion, isolation and taunting. Bullying will not be tolerated and parents will be expected to cooperate with the school at all times in dealing with instances of bullying in accordance with the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.

Affirming Positive Behaviour

Positive reinforcement of good behaviour leads to better self-discipline and we place a greater emphasis on rewards and incentives than on sanctions.

Strategies/Incentives for affirming positive behaviour.

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment on a child's exercise book.
- A visit to another class or Principal for commendation.
- Praise in front of class group.
- Individual class merit awards, points awards or award stamps.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- Written or verbal communication with parent.

Discouraging Misbehaviour

The purpose of sanctions and other strategies is to promote positive and discourage misbehaviour. Sanctions will be applied according to the gravity of the misbehaviour, with due regard to age and emotional development. These may include.

- Reasoning with pupil.
- Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve.
- Temporary separation from peers within class and/or temporary removal to another class.
- Prescribing extra work.
- Loss of privileges.
- Detention during break.
- Communication with parents.
- Referral to Principal.
- Principal communicating with parents.
- Exclusion (Suspension or Expulsion) from school (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular and Education Welfare Act 2000).

Pupils will not be deprived of engagement in a Curricular Area (eg. PE or Art), except on the grounds of health/safety.

Suspension/Expulsion

Before serious sanctions such as detention, suspension or expulsion are used, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised.

Where it is proposed to detain a pupil after school hours, the parents or guardians will be notified.

Communication with parents may be verbal or by letter depending on the circumstances. For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension may be considered. Parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher or pupil will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour.

Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents will be requested in writing to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson and the principal. If the parents do not give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future the pupil may be suspended for a period. Prior to suspension, where possible, the Principal may review the case in consultation with teachers and other members of the school community involved, with due regard to records of previous misbehaviours, their pattern and context, sanctions and other interventions used and their outcomes and any relevant medical information. 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 safety of the pupils, the Board may authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding three school days, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents. Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with the Rule for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000. Before suspending or expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Local Welfare Education Officer in writing in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.

Removal of Suspension (Reinstatement)

Following or during a period of suspension, the parent/s may apply to have the pupil reinstated to the school. The parent/s 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. The Principal will facilitate the preparation of a behaviour plan for the pupil if required and will re-admit the pupil formally to the class.

School Rules

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

Before/After School

Parents are reminded the school is open at 9.10am each morning and that the staff of the school does not accept responsibility for pupils who arrive at the school before this time. Neither does the staff accept responsibility for pupils after the official closing time of 3:00p.m. or 2:00pm as in the case of infants except where pupils are engaged in an extra-curricular activity organised by the school and approved by the Board of Management. Pupils involved in such activities are expected to behave in accordance with school behaviour policy during these times.

Board of Management's Responsibilities

- Provide a comfortable, safe environment.
- Support the Principal and staff in implementing the code.
- Ratify the code.

Principal's Responsibilities

- Promote a positive climate in the school.
- Ensure that the Code of Behaviour is implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
- Arrange for review of the Code, as required.

Teachers'/Staff Responsibilities

Support and implement the school's code of behaviour.

- Create a safe working environment for each pupil.
- Recognise and affirm good work.
- Prepare school work and correct work done by pupils.
- Recognise and provide for individual talents and differences among pupils.
- Be courteous, consistent and fair.
- Keep opportunities for disruptive behaviour to a minimum.
- Deal appropriately with misbehaviour.
- Keep a record of instances of serious misbehaviour or repeated instances of misbehaviour.
- Provide support for colleagues.
- Communicate with parents when necessary and provide reports on matters of mutual concern.

Pupils' Responsibilities

For my own safety and that of others-

- (a) I should be careful coming to and going from school.
- (b) I should always walk while in the school building.
- (c) I should remain seated at all times in class and while eating lunch
- (d) I should be careful when running in the schoolyard and always show respect for my fellow pupils.
- (e) I should not wear any jewellery except a wristwatch and one pair of stud earrings in ear lobes only.
- (f) I should never leave the school grounds without the permission of the Principal.
- (g) I should never wear unsuitable footwear to school.

Caring for myself

- (a) I should respect my property, and myself always keeping my school bag, books and copies in good order.
- (b) I should always be in school when the bell rings at 9.20a.m.
- (c) I should show respect for my school and be proud to wear the complete school uniform every day.
- (d) I should always be aware of my personal cleanliness.
- (e) I should always bring a sensible, nutritional lunch to school in accordance with our Healthy Eating Policy. Crisps, minerals, sweets, chewing gum and glass bottles are not permitted.
- (f) I should not wear highlights in my hair.
- (g) I should not wear make-up.
- (f) I should always do my best in school by listening carefully, working as hard as I can and by completing my homework.

Caring for others

- (a) I should be kind and respectful to teachers/staff and fellow pupils by being mannerly and polite, by taking turns and by remaining silent and orderly in my class line.
- (b) I should behave well in class so that my fellow pupils and I can learn.
- (c) I should always keep my school clean by bringing unfinished food and drinks, cartons, wrappers, etc. home. I should show respect for the property of my fellow pupils, the school building and grounds.
- (d) Be truthful and honest at all times.
- (e) Never form clubs or any other group that might isolate or exclude other children.

Bullying:

I should never bully others. I should never allow others to bully me and if it happens I should tell my parents and my teacher. Bullying is always unacceptable. (See school policy on bullying)

Parents/Guardians' Responsibilities

- Encourage children to have a sense of respect for themselves and for property.
- Ensure that children attend regularly and punctually.
- Ensure that children always bring a sensible, nutritional lunch to school in accordance with our Healthy Eating Policy.
- Be interested in, support and encourage their children's school work.
- Be familiar with the code of behaviour and support its implementation.
- Co-operate with teachers and Principal in instances where their child's behaviour is causing difficulties for others.
- Communicate with the school in relation to any problems which may affect child's progress/behaviour.
- Aggressive behaviour towards staff/pupils or members of the Board of Management is unacceptable
- Respect school guidelines regarding teacher appointments.
- Informal discussions at unappointed times with teachers/staff is unwelcome.
- Teachers/staff reserve the right not to discuss issues with parents/guardians unless a prior appointment has been made.
- Drop forgotten lunches/sportswear/musical instruments etc.to the office only. They will be passed on by the secretary

Review Procedure

The policy will be reviewed regularly in the light of experience. It will be reviewed by the full staff and Board of Management every two years. Any staff member, board member, parent, guardian or student who is unhappy with the content or the implementation of any school policy may request a review at any time and such a request will be dealt with as quickly as possible. Next review of this policy will occur before or during the school year 2016/17.

Ratified 25th February 2015

Signed:

Date:

Mr Michael Collins
Chairperson B.O.M.



Code of Behaviour Approval Form

Please return this page of the policy to the school as soon as possible:

We the parent(s)/guardian(s) of:

Name of Pupil(s) _____

have read and approve the CODE OF BEHAVIOUR of Scoil Mhuire NS, Schull. We undertake to ensure that my/our child/children complies with these rules.

SIGNED BY PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)

DATE

1. _____

2. _____
