

School Policy on Behaviour

This code has been drawn up after a process which involved consultation with teachers, parents and the Board of Management. The support and co-operation of parents are essential if the code is to be effective. It is underpinned by our desire, through the Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.) curriculum, to promote a positive school climate and atmosphere.

Our School Goals

1. To give our children the basic training they need to grow up to be integrated and self-reliant .This training is spiritual, moral, intellectual , emotional , physical and social.
2. To create in our school a climate of trust and love where the staff are supportive of each other and where each child is valued as an individual.
3. To foster loyalty and mutual respect.
4. To help our pupils to grow in maturity and become good citizens.
5. To introduce our pupils to the truth that they may know it, the good that they may love it, and to the beautiful that they may delight in it.
6. To encourage the co-operation and involvement of the whole school community – the pupils, parents, Board of Management, the school’s Inspector and the Department of Education.

Principles underpinning the Code of Behaviour

- In devising the code, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of this school. The aim is to develop self-discipline in each child by encouraging good behaviour. This code recognises the right of each child to education in a relatively disruption-free environment. The school also recognises the individuality of every child and takes this into account when devising the code. The code provides for differentiation in its implementation based on advice and guidelines from outside professionals, i.e. psychologists, etc..
- The children will be involved in the discussion about, and formation of, expected behaviours and rewards.
- Teachers of Gaelscoil Chnoc na Ré place greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions in the belief that this will, in the long term, give the best results.
- All teachers must uphold the code of behaviour and, with other teachers, be consistent in its implementation.
- Rules will be kept to a minimum and will be explained to the children in such a way that they appreciate that these rules ensure the smooth running of the school for the maximum benefit and safety of all members of our school community.
- The code recognises that all people, both the children and adults of our school community, have rights as well as responsibilities and our code of behaviour will be mutually supportive of these at all times.
- Good behaviour and achievement by the child will be emphasised. The discipline of children who breach the school rules will be enforced to ensure that a fair and just system is established and perceived to be in operation, by all children. It is made clear that it is the behaviour, and not the child, that is rejected.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

We hope to promote positive behaviour in the school through the use of a variety of strategies. Examples may include:-

- Praise and encouragement
- Positive comments to child /in copy (related to work/effort)
- Notes to parents/guardians in Homework Journal, etc.
- Point system (whole class reward system)
- 'Golden Time'
- Award stickers/stars
- Student of the week (Labhairt na Gaeilge)
- Freedom from homework
- School and classroom job privileges
- Rewards/prizes – end of week/term.
- A team approach to behaviour throughout the school is used – teachers/support staff/guests/parents communicate methods of rewarding behaviour.
- SPHE programme
- Religion programme

Our School's Discipline Hierarchy:

- Reasoning with a pupil
 - Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve
 - Contact with parents/guardians
 - Temporary removal from the group within the class
 - Loss of privileges
 - Time out in other class under supervision, and Principal informed.
 - Card System (see below) for more serious incidents
 - Formal report to the Board of Management
 - Suspension (in accordance with the Education Act 1998 and the Education Welfare Act 2000).
 - Expulsion (in accordance with the Education Act 1998 and the Education Welfare Act 2000).
- The National Education Welfare Board (NEWB) Guidelines in relation to Suspension and Expulsion are attached as Appendices.**

Examples of Minor Misdemeanours:

(SAMPLES)

- *Interrupting class work*
- *Running in school building*
- *Leaving seat without permission at lunch-time*
- *Throwing litter*
- *Being discourteous or unmannerly*
- *Not completing homework without good reason*

Córas na gCártaí/Card System

YELLOW CARD

A YELLOW CARD is given for the following:

1. Physical Incidents (SAMPLES)

- *Any dangerous activity in the yard or class*
- *Throwing stones/sticks or other objects at others*
- *Spitting*
- *Dangerous pushing or jumping on other children*
- *Biting*
- *Scraping/marking another child deliberately*
- *Damaging school, staff or children's property*

2. Verbal Incidents (SAMPLES)

- *Shouting/screaming in a threatening manner*
- *Insulting a child or adult*
- *Inappropriate/bad language*
- *Lying about an incident or other person*

3. Continuous Misbehaviour

- *Not cooperating with school staff continually, e.g. being disrespectful, refusing to follow instructions*

Who issues the card?

Decision of an individual teacher who may consult with another staff member. The teacher must be certain the incident has occurred and fully investigate the circumstances. The teacher informs the Principal/Deputy Principal who also signs the card.

What happens when a child receives a Yellow Card?

1. The parent is contacted by phone.
2. The child's name, the date and explanation of incident are recorded on the card. The teacher and Principal/Deputy Principal sign the card and a photocopy of the card goes in the Discipline folder.
3. The card is attached to the Homework journal.
4. The incident should be discussed at home with parent(s) and returned to the school signed by the parent.
5. Rang Smachta (Discipline Class) – a child receiving a yellow card will spend 15 minutes in this class at lunch time doing extra work assigned to him/her. The class teacher will be responsible for implementing this. In senior classes the child will be asked to write an account of the incident (signed by the parents)
6. In the case of a second yellow card, a meeting is arranged between the parent(s) and the class teacher to discuss the child's behaviour.

RED CARD

A RED CARD is given for the following:

1. For three yellow cards in a period of 3 months.
2. Immediately in the event of a serious incident (SAMPLES)
 - *Deliberate physical assault on others, e.g. kicking, striking, choking, hands around child's neck, etc.*
 - *Violent pushing or jumping on other children*
 - *Behaviour that endangers others, e.g. throwing furniture*
 - *Bullying*
 - *Continuous insulting/name-calling*
 - *Defiantly refusing to cooperate with teachers or staff*

- *Stealing*
- *Falsifying parent's signature*
- *Leaving the school without permission*
- *Inappropriate language or actions*
- *Racist language*
- *Continuous bad language*

Who issues the card?

Decision of at least two staff members – a teacher and the Principal (or his nominee) It is important that accurate information is collected, as well as a thorough investigation taking place.

What happens when a child receives a Red Card?

1. The school contacts the parent(s) immediately or as soon as possible that day and a record of the conversation/contact with parents is kept in the Red Incident Book
2. The child's name, the date and explanation of incident are recorded on the card. The teacher and the Principal/nominee sign the card and a photocopy of the card goes in the Discipline folder.
3. The card is attached to the Homework journal.
4. The incident should be discussed at home with parent(s) and returned to the school signed by the parent.
5. Rang Smachta (Discipline Class) – a child receiving a red card will spend THREE 15 minute sessions in this class at lunch time doing extra work assigned to him/her. The class teacher will be responsible for implementing this. In senior classes the child will be asked to write an account of the incident (signed by the parents)
6. A meeting is arranged between the parent(s), the Principal and the class teacher to discuss the child's behaviour.

What happens when a child receives a second Red Card?

1. Steps 1-5 above are followed and a note inviting the parent(s) to a meeting is also sent home.
2. A meeting between the parent(s), the Principal and the class teacher takes place and the child will attend for part of this meeting.
3. If a child receives two or more red cards, the child may be suspended after the Principal has discussed the case with the relevant teacher(s), the parents and following consultation with the Board of Management.

OTHER NOTES

- A Yellow Card is valid for 3 months and then is removed from the record. A red card stays on the record for the schoolyear but is not carried forward from year to year. However, previous year cards may be taken into account in the case of continuous inappropriate behaviour.
- If a parent refuses to sign a yellow or red card, and the Principal is satisfied that the correct process was followed, then the card will stand.
- Parents may seek a review of the decision to award a card by following the agreed **INTO/Management Complaints Procedure** (attached).

The following are the stakeholders' responsibility in relation to the Code of Behaviour:

Board of Management's Responsibilities:

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

Principal's Responsibilities:

- Promote a positive learning 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' Responsibilities:

- Support and implement the school's Code of Behaviour.
- Create safe working environment for each pupil.
- Recognise and affirm good behaviour.
- Recognise and provide for individual talents and differences among pupils.
- Be courteous, consistent and fair.
- Keep opportunities for disruptive behaviour to a minimum.
- Deal fairly and consistently with misbehaviour.
- Provide support for colleagues.
- Communicate with parents when necessary and provide reports on matters of mutual concern.
- Show respect for all members of the school community.

Pupil's Responsibilities:

- Attend school regularly and punctually.
- Listen to their teachers and act on instructions / advice.
- Show respect for all school property and the property of other pupils.
- Avoid behaving in any way which would endanger others.
- Take care of themselves and others.
- Do not exclude other pupils from games and activities.
- Bring correct materials / books to school.
- Follow school, class and yard rules.
- Show respect for all members of the school community.

Parents / Guardian's Responsibilities:

- Encourage children to have a sense of respect for themselves, for others and for property.
- Ensure that children attend regularly and punctually and are collected in time.
- Be interested in, support and encourage their children's school work.
- Be familiar with Code of Behaviour and support its implementation.
- Co-operate with teachers in instances where their child's behaviour is causing difficulties for others.
- Communicate with the school in relation to any problems which may affect their child's progress / behaviour.
- Show respect for all members of the school community.

Rialacha na Scoile/School Rules

Tá na rialacha briste síos i bhfoirm simplí.

The school rules have been simplified as follows, with examples:

G (Is í) Gaeilge teanga na scoile. *Irish is the language of the school*

- Irish is the everyday language of the school.

A Am Ceart, áit ceart *Right time, right place*

- Be punctual. School starts at 8:50am. Children arriving after roll-call (9.50) will be marked absent.
- Eating/drinking is restricted to break times in class and not in the yard.
- The appropriate school uniform should be worn at all times.
- All pupils must be in their line at the end of breaks. The pupils must proceed quietly in line order to the classroom accompanied by the class teacher.
- Under no circumstances should a child leave the school grounds without permission.
- Use of mobile phones during school hours is forbidden.

E Éistimis le chéile *Listen to one another*

- Children will obey and respect all teachers and other staff at all times.
- Children should listen to other children in class and follow the class rules.

L Labhair i gceart *Speak correctly*

- Bad language will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

S Siúl *Walk*

- Walk directly to and from toilets.
- When the school bell rings, STOP then WALK and STAND in line.

C Bí Cúramach *Take Care*

- The school operates a HealthyEating policy (and junk food, chewing gum, etc. must not be consumed)
- Respect must be shown for all school property, equipment and books.
- For Health & Safety reasons, jewellery is banned with the exception of stud earrings and one ring.

O Oibrigh go maith *Work well*

- All classwork and homework must be attempted and carefully done.

I Iarracht i gcónaí *(Make an) Effort always*

- Children are expected to do their best at all times.

L Bí Lách agus dea-bhéasach *Be gentle and well-mannered*

- Play safely outside, taking care of yourself and others, and follow the yard rules.
- Bullying in any form will not be tolerated.
- Knock and wait before entering staff room.