



St. Mary's National School



Parnell Avenue ♦ Enniscorthy ♦ County Wexford

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Code of Behaviour

The aims of the Code of Behaviour of St Mary's National School are:

- To provide guidance for pupils, teachers, and parents on behavioural 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 teaching and learning to take place 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 encouraged at all times. 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 follow a teacher's instructions, to work to the best of their ability and to present class work and homework 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, stating the reason for absence.
6. Children are expected to arrive in to school in time for classes to begin. School opens at 8.50 a.m. when homework is checked and set. Formal teaching begins at 9.10 a.m.

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

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval
- A comment on a child's exercise book
- Praise in front of class group
- A visit to another class or Principal for commendation
- Individual class merit awards

- 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. Under certain circumstances there is a need for sanctions to register disapproval of unacceptable behaviour. The school adopts graded system for responding to incidents of misbehaviour. Sanctions will be applied according to the gravity of the misbehaviour, with due regard to age and emotional development.

A distinction is made below between minor and more serious incidents of misbehaviour. Sanctions will be applied at the discretion of the Principal and staff, taking into account individual circumstances, as deemed appropriate. In the case of these interventions/sanctions some or all of them may be applied, not necessarily in any particular order.

Some examples of minor incidents

- Homework or classwork not completed to a satisfactory standard
- Running in the school building
- Interrupting / distracting other pupils from schoolwork
- Failure to line up in an orderly fashion
- Late arrival to class
- Disrespect to members of the school community
- In-appropriate behaviour in the school
- Being hurtful to members of the school community

Some examples of major incidents

- Blatant disrespect towards members of school community
- Leaving school grounds without permission
- Deliberately hurting/bullying another child
- Stealing
- Persistent strong offensive language
- Unauthorised use of a phone / device during school hours
- Wilfully defacing school or personal property
- Unsafe behaviour on the school grounds
- Directly disobeying a teacher's instructions
- Substance misuse on the school premises or during school activities
- Persistent occurrence of minor incidents of misbehaviour

Interventions/Sanctions:

- Non-verbal cues and signals (eye contact, physical proximity, gestures, etc.)
- Redirecting pupil to expected behaviour / activity
- Discussion with pupil
- Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve
- Temporary separation from peers within class and/or to another class
- Prescribing uncompleted work to be finished
- Loss of privileges
- Temporary separation from peers 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, except on the grounds of health / safety.

Bullying

Bullying is repeated verbal, psychological or physical aggression by an individual or group against others. Bullying will not be tolerated. Pupils and parents are expected to co-operate with the school at all times in dealing with instances of bullying in accordance with the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.

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. Communication with parents may be verbal or written 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. Class teachers set clear expectations for pupils regarding behaviour.

Before/After School

Parents are reminded that the staff of the school does not accept responsibility for pupils before official opening time of 8.50 a.m. or after the official closing time of 1.30 p.m. (infants) and 2.30 p.m. (other classes) 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' Responsibilities

Support and implement the school's code of behaviour.

- Create a safe working environment for each pupil.
- Recognise and affirm good work.
- Prepare schoolwork 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

- Attend school regularly and punctually
- Listen to their teachers and act on instructions/advice
- Show respect for all members of the school community
- Respect all school property and the property of other pupils
- Behave in a safe, responsible way, which does not endanger others
- Be kind, avoiding all nasty remarks, swearing and name-calling
- Include other pupils in games and activities
- Bring correct materials/books to school
- Follow school and class rules

Parents/Guardians' Responsibilities


- Encourage children to have a sense of respect for themselves and for property
- Ensure that children attend regularly and punctually.
- Be interested in, support and encourage their children's schoolwork
- Be familiar with the 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 child's progress/behaviour.

Ratification and Review

This policy was reviewed and approved by the Board of Management on 16th November 2021

Signed 
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date 16/11/21

Signed 
Principal

Date 16/11/21