

Cloontagh N.S.

The Code of Behaviour Policy.

The code of behaviour is the set of programmes, practices and procedures that together form the school's plan for helping students in the school to behave well and learn well.

The code of behaviour helps the school community to promote the school ethos, relationships, policies, procedures and practices that encourage good behaviour and prevent unacceptable behaviour. The code of behaviour helps teachers, other members of staff, students and parents to work together for a happy, effective and safe school.

The code expresses the vision, mission and values of the school and its Patron. It translates the expectations of staff, parents and students into practical arrangements that will help to ensure continuity of instructions to all students. It helps to foster an orderly, harmonious school where high standards of behaviour are expected and supported.

The code of behaviour enables Cloontagh N.S. to strike an appropriate balance between their duty to maintain an effective learning environment for all their responsibility to students whose behaviour presents a challenge to the teaching and learning process. The code of behaviour is a key tool in enabling the school authorities to support the learning of every student in the school.

Aims

To enhance the learning environment where children can make progress in all aspects of their development

- To promote positive behaviour and self-discipline recognising the difference between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
- To ensure Cloontagh N.S. to function in an orderly and harmonious way.
- To create an atmosphere of respect, tolerance and consideration for others, the community and property.
- To ensure that the system of rules, rewards and sanctions are implemented in a fair and consistent manner.

1. In devising the code, consideration has been given to the particular needs of this school. The aim is to enhance that the individuality of each child is accommodated while acknowledging the right of each child to education in a relatively disruption free environment.
2. Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school.
3. The school places greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions in the belief that this will, in the long run give the best results.
4. The school recognises the variety of difference that exists between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
5. 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, pupils and parents.
6. The rules are kept to a minimum and are positively stated in terms of what the pupil should do.
7. All efforts will be made to match the curriculum to the abilities aptitudes and interests of each pupil. This should help reduce boredom, lack of interest and lack of progress.
8. The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the Principal. Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within her classroom while sharing a common responsibility within the school premises.
9. In the belief that most effective school tend to be those with the best relationship with parent, every effort will be made by the Principal and staff to ensure that parents are kept informed, that the school provides a welcoming atmosphere towards parents and that parents are told not only when their child is in trouble but when they have behaved particularly well.
10. All members of the teaching staff have been involved in planning the code.
11. The code will be renewed and evaluated at agreed intervals.
12. The code of discipline has been authorised by the Board of

Management.

13. The following strategies will be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour:

- A) Reasoning with the pupil
- B) Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
- C) Temporary separation from peers, friends or others
- D) Loss of privileges

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- E) Detention during break
- F) Prescribing additional work
- G) Send to another teacher to complete work
- H) Referral to the Principal
- I) Communication with parents;
- J) Suspension (temporary)
- K) Expulsion.

Teachers will keep a written record of all instances of serious and gross misbehaviour. Before resorting to serious sanctions e.g., suspension or expulsion normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Parents will be involved at an early stage, rather than as a last resort.

14. Communication with parents will be verbal or by letter depending on circumstances. The parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case. For gross misbehaviour suspension/expulsion will be considered. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher will be regarded as gross misbehaviour, depending on the circumstances.

15. 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 come to 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 have to be suspended for a temporary period. Suspension / expulsion will be in accordance with the terms laid out by the Department of Education.

General Code of Discipline for Cloontagh N.S

1. All pupils are expected to treat staff, their fellow pupils and visitors with respect and courtesy at all times.
2. The use of foul language and any form of bullying, both verbal or physical is unacceptable.
3. Inform members of staff when bullying incidents occur.
4. Pupils must respect all school property and keep the school environment clean litter free.
5. Children should have their names on their coats and other personal property such as school books, copies etc and have respect for their own and other pupils property. 3
6. Children are expected to use the litter bins in order to create a clean environment.
7. Children must walk at all times in the school building.
8. Repeated failure to wear school uniform is considered a breach of discipline.
9. On all school outings/excursions/sports trips children are expected to adhere to the school code of discipline. On all such occasions they are accompanied by a member of staff or other responsible adult.
10. Be honest
11. Observe the Healthy Eating Policy
12. Be punctual
13. Chewing gum is forbidden.
14. No make up
15. No mobile phones except when children require them to ring parents in the event that children need to be collected at a different time. If a child has to have a mobile phone for this purpose he/she must inform the class teacher in the morning.
16. Littering is not permitted.
17. Children may not leave the school grounds without permission.

Classroom Rules.

Infant Classroom.

The children are introduced to the disciplinary procedures within the

school in the infant classroom. Children are allowed a certain amount of mobility - depending on the lesson being conducted. When they have settled down to their work children should only be out of their seat to sharpen a pencil.

While the teacher is working with senior infants, children in junior infants are expected to work/play quietly - and vice versa. Children are encouraged to raise their hands to speak, rather than shout out.

They are encouraged to play together and to be courteous and mannerly towards their teacher, other members of staff and visitors to the school. They are expected to enter and leave the room in orderly fashion. Running is not permitted inside the school.

The children are encouraged to tidy after themselves so as not to depend on others to do so.

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Classroom Rules.

First and Second Classroom.

Children are introduced to more behaviour patterns in this room. They are allowed to move around the room to get an activity / library book on a rota basis - also to point pencils as the need arises. At all times children are seated and require permission to leave their seats.

Talking is not permitted while:

9. Children are working

10. Teacher or other child is talking

In order to speak they must first put up their hand. In the class situation where talking is allowed they must do so quietly.

Children tidy up quietly in an orderly manner. School bags are kept under the table. Chairs are pushed in under the table during the day and put up on tables at home time. Children are expected to leave the room in an orderly manner.

Classroom Rules.

Third - Sixth Classroom

At this stage children are expected to be fully familiar with what is acceptable in the classroom. They are allowed to move around to get a dictionary/atlas/reference book/library book etc. as required or get supplementary work. They are expected to work quietly especially when the teacher is working with another group. In class discussion they are expected to request permission to speak and not interrupt others.

During project work/group work they are allowed to discuss the nature of the work quietly within the group. They are expected to make use of toilet facilities at break- times and are discouraged from asking permission to go to the toilet during class. They are expected to tidy up before leaving the room and to do so in an orderly manner. School bags are kept under the table, chairs are pushed in under the table when not in use during the day and put up on tables at 3pm.

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Playground Rules.

- Children should play in their own yard.
- Have respect for their own safety and the safety of others.
- Show respect for all children and adults in the playground.
- Obey all adults in playground duty.
- Respond to the bell and enter the school in an orderly manner.
- Request permission to leave the playground if the ball goes out of the play area.

Sanctions for Dealing with Unacceptable behaviour

The nature and seriousness of the misdemeanour will determine the sanctions used. All sanctions outlined below are in accordance with guidelines from the National Educational Welfare Board (Túsla, Child and Family Agency).

Minor Misdemeanours

- Talking / interrupting in class
- Distracting other pupils
- Not paying attention / not doing their homework
- Throwing objects in class
- Running in the school building
- Not wearing school uniform
- Not completing homework without good reason
- Being untruthful

Correction Procedures

1. Verbal correction - Reasoning with the pupil
2. Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
3. Temporary separation from peers.
4. Loss of privileges
5. Partial detention during a break to carry out prescribed work
6. Send to another teacher to complete work
7. Send to Principal if unacceptable behaviour is repeated
8. Communicate with parents.

Serious Misdemeanours

9. Constant disruption in class
10. Damaging property / Stealing
11. Bullying
12. Disrespecting school staff or visitors to the school
13. Repeated failure to do homework or assigned work
14. Repeated use of unacceptable language
15. Abuse of other pupils

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Sanctions

16. Referral to Principal
17. Parents - Class Teacher and/or the Principal
18. Parents and child asked to ensure no repetition of behaviour

Gross Misdemeanours

19. Serious and intentional damage to school property
20. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards staff or pupil
21. Deliberate injury to fellow pupil / staff
22. Carrying or using dangerous weapons
23. Persistent incidences of serious misdemeanours and deliberate defiance and undermining of teacher authority.

Sanctions

- Principal to meet parents
- Chairperson and Principal to meet Parents

In extreme cases suspension or expulsion may be considered in accordance with national Education Welfare Act Guidelines (Túsla, Child and Family Agency) and in consultation with the Board of Management.

Student with Special Needs

Sanctions may be needed to help a student with special educational needs to learn about appropriate behaviour and skill. Teachers will take particular care that they help the student with special needs to understand clearly the purpose of the sanctions and the reason why their behaviour is unacceptable.

Suspension / Expulsion Procedures in Accordance with the Education Welfare Act.

Under section 29 of the Education Act (1998) parents are entitled to appeal to the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills against some decisions of the Board of Management inclining permanent exclusion from school and Suspension for a good period which would bring the cumulative person of suspension to 20 school days or longer in any one year.

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Accordingly, the school will advise parents of this right of appeal and associate time frame if it has been decided to suspend or permanently exclude a pupil. Appeals must be made within 42 calendar days from the date of the decision of the school was notified to the parent or guardian.

Promoting Good Behaviour

Promoting good behaviour is the main goal of the Code of Discipline

The day to day management of the school and classroom teaching will enable most students to behave in ways that support their own learning development.

Incentives for Promoting Good Behaviour

1. Teachers will encourage children in the classroom by
 - Allocating individual responsibilities
 - Insisting on care of books, furniture, equipment etc
 - Developing an attitude of tidiness by allowing and training children to keep their classrooms clean and tidy.
 - Encouraging children to do their best at all times both at class work and presentation of their work.
 - Focusing and rewarding positive behaviour

Rewards

- Verbal affirmation
- Stamps
- Stickers
- Certificates
- Positive comments in copies.

Role of Parents

Parents play a vital role in shaping the attitudes, which produce good behaviour in school by

- Ensuring that their children are at school on time in the morning
- Ensuring the children are wearing their uniform
- Informing the school when a child is absent
- Visiting the school when invited to do so
- Being part of the Parents Committee
- Checking that homework is done to a good standard
- Reminding the children to abide by the school rules and to be respectful to their teachers
- Informing the school when their child is experiencing difficulties and arranging appointments to discuss these issues when they may arise.

Recording Breaches of Behaviour

1. Teachers are responsible for recording misdemeanours that take place

in the classroom

2. Any yard incident that is deemed serious or gross misdemeanour is recorded in the yard book
3. Minor incidences will be recorded if they are repeated on a number of occasions
4. The school will inform parents/guardians by phone or letter if it is necessary to speak to them regarding behaviour.
5. Parents will make an appointment if they wish to contact a teacher for any reason.
6. A record is kept of these and the visit.
7. The General code of Discipline is circulated to all new parents at the start of the year and is signed and returned to the school

The Board of Management, school staff and parents will monitor the implementation of the Policy.

The Policy will be reviewed annually.

Signed _____
(Chairperson of B.O.M.)

Signed _____
(Principal)

Date: _____

Date _____

