

Scoil Naomh Cholmcille



Code of Behaviour

Aims:

Scoil Naomh Cholmcille places a greater emphasis on positive discipline techniques than on sanctions in the belief that it is a better enforcer of good behaviour. Therefore, all staff members will make every effort to adopt a positive culture of discipline both in their classroom and in the school as a whole. This code offers a framework that allows for this approach of motivation and reward. There is a value system in the school that fosters and acknowledges the positive values of respect, peace, friendship, tolerance etc.

The school rules attached to this code are stated in positive terms and are kept to a minimum so as to ensure their implementation. However, this code accepts the need, that in some circumstance an informal approach to dealing with breaches of discipline is insufficient and that a more formal process must also be in place. Procedures to initiate a formal process are included.

The code attempts to put in place an ordered and orderly environment in which pupils can, through developing self-discipline, feel secure and make progress in all aspects of their development.

Our code of discipline is created and maintained with the co-operation of the parent body and the Board of Management.

Underlying Principles:

- ❖ The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to tolerate these differences.
- ❖ 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 and between staff, parents and pupils.
- ❖ Every effort will be made to ensure that the code of discipline is implemented in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner.

Safety Issues:

For a pupil's safety and that of others-

- ❖ Care should be taken coming to and going from school
- ❖ All pupils to walk while in the school building.
- ❖ All pupils to remain seated at all times in class and while eating lunch
- ❖ The schoolyard is a place for play and games and all should show respect and care for their fellow pupils
- ❖ A note of explanation following absences to be supplied
- ❖ All pupils should never leave the school grounds without the permission of the Principal.

Pupils' Personal Care:

- ❖ All personal property should be respected, and school bag, books and copies should be labelled and kept in good order.
- ❖ All school property should be respected.
- ❖ All pupils should be in school before the bell rings at 9.05a.m.
- ❖ All pupils should show respect for their school and wear the complete school uniform every day. The P.E uniform is strictly for P.E day only.
- ❖ All pupils should be aware of their personal cleanliness.
- ❖ All pupils should bring a sensible, nutritional lunch to school. Chewing gum in any form is not permitted.
- ❖ All pupils should do their best in school by listening carefully, working as hard as they can and by completing their homework.

Pupils Caring for others:

- ❖ All pupils should be kind and respectful to teachers and fellow pupils by being mannerly and polite, by taking turns and by remaining silent and orderly in their class line.
- ❖ All pupils should behave well in class so that their fellow pupils can learn.
- ❖ All pupils should keep their school clean at all times by bringing unfinished food and drinks, cartons, wrappers, etc. home.
- ❖ Respect should be shown for the property of all pupils, the school building and grounds.
- ❖ Be truthful and honest at all times.

Clár ama na Scoile:

Assembly: 8:55am -9:05 am

School begins: 9.05 a.m.

School Closes: Junior Infants 1.45p.m.

Senior Infants 1.45p.m.

Other Classes 2.45 p.m.

Homework:

It is the policy of the school to assign homework on a regular basis. Parents are strongly advised to take an active interest in their child's homework and to sign their Homework each night.

It should be noted that the following lists consist of examples only: It is not meant to be a totally comprehensive list of misbehaviours and procedural steps.

Strategies for Positive Discipline:

Praise may be given by means of any one of the following:

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval
- A comment in a pupil's exercise book
- A visit to another member of Staff or to the Principal for commendation.
- A word of praise in front of a group or class.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- A mention to parent, written or verbal communication.
- Value certificates at Assembly.

Strategies when observing Misbehaviour:

(The nature of the behaviour will determine the strategy)

- Reasoning with pupils
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
- Prescribing extra work.
- Communication with Parents.
- Temporary separation from peers and/or loss of privileges.
- Referral to Principal.
- Note to parents.
- Take note of in Principal's behaviour book.
- Write out some prescribed work.
- Suspension/expulsion (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular 7/88).

The degree of misbehaviour be it minor, serious or gross, will be judged by the teachers and/or Principal based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity/frequency of such misbehaviour, as follows:

Minor:

- Interrupting class work
- Persistent late arrival late for school
- Running in school building
- Misbehaving in class line
- Leaving seat without permission at lunch time
- Leaving litter around school
- Not wearing correct uniform
- Being discourteous/unmannerly
- Not completing homework without good reason

Procedures for Minor:

Early Steps (within the classroom)

- Write an accurate story of what happened all to be signed by parent
- Note in homework journal to be signed by parent
- Temporary separation from peers (to be communicated to parents)
- Sending to another teacher (to communicated to parents)
- Denial of participation in some class activity. (to be communicated to parents)
- Phone call from class teacher to parents concerning misbehaviour in yard.

[Misbehaviour in yard consists of any action that puts the safety of self/other pupil at risk]

Step 2:

- 1) Send to Principal.
- 2) Class teacher informs parent (phonecall)
- 3) Principal meets one/both parents concerning behaviour if required.

Serious:

- Constantly disruptive in class
- Stealing / Damaging other pupil's property
- Bullying – see Anti-bullying Policy
- Back answering a teacher.
- Leaving school premises during school day without appropriate permission.
- Using unacceptable language
- Bringing weapons to school
- Deliberately injuring a fellow pupil.
- Mobile phones, audio or video recording devices eg watches, ipods, ipad etc (this list is not exhaustive) are absolutely prohibited on school premises.
- Endangering self/fellow pupils in the school.

Procedures for Serious:

- Send to Principal.
- Class teacher informs parents.
- Principal meets one or both parents.

Gross:

- Deliberately damaging school buildings or fixtures.
- Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a member of staff /pupil
- Bullying behaviour –see Anti-bullying policy

Procedures for Gross:

- 1) All sanctions up to and including suspension will be considered.
- 2) Expulsion will be considered in an extreme case in accordance with Rule 130 (6) i.e. " No pupil can be struck off the rolls for breaches of discipline without prior consent of patron and until alternative arrangements are made for enrolment of pupil at another suitable school in the locality".

The overall responsibility for discipline rests with the Principal or (in the absence of the Principal) the Deputy Principal. Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within their classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good order throughout our school.

An initiation of a formal process will be conducted using the guidelines of the Handbook of the CPSMA for Boards of Management and written records will be kept.

BULLYING

See anti Bullying policy

Review

The code of conduct policy will be reviewed on an annual basis along with the Anti-bullying policy.

- This policy was adopted by the Board of Management of

It was reviewed

- The policy has been made available to school personnel, published on the school website and provided to the Parents' Association. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.

- This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year. Written notification that the review has been completed will be made available to school personnel, published on the school website and provided to the Parents' Association. A record of the review and its outcomes will be made available, if requested, to the patron and the Department.

Signed _____
Chairperson Board of Management

Date _____