

CNOC MUIRE SENIOR SCHOOL CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Introductory statement

This code was drawn up by a team of teachers in consultation with parents, teachers and the Board of Management of Cnoc Mhuire Senior School, in accordance with the guidelines for developing a Code of Behaviour from the National Educational Welfare Board (2008)

The Code of Behaviour will be implemented at the professional discretion of the Principal and teaching staff of the school in cooperation with pupils and parents.

Rationale

This was drawn up after a review of the existing discipline policy which was found to have lost momentum and effect. The following outlines the need for this new code

- To ensure consistency throughout all classes.
- To ensure children/parents are aware of acceptable behaviour.
- It is now a requirement of DES Circular 29/90 on school discipline.
- To improve behaviour throughout the school.

School Mission Statement.

We are committed in Cnoc Mhuire Senior to provide a caring, safe, disciplined environment with a wide range of educational opportunities in order that each child will achieve his/her potential.

In our school we have developed a unified code of behaviour to enhance, improve and develop a positive ethos and spirit in ourschool.

Values and Aims of the Code of Behaviour

Cnoc Mhuire Senior School's Code of Behaviour has been drawn up to set clear standards and guidelines of the behaviour which is expected throughout the school. Its purpose is to provide a safe and secure environment for all children and staff members. The Code of Behaviour is designed to promote a friendly and happy atmosphere for all.

Expectations for Pupils

- Self discipline and self motivation
- Independence and initiative
- Tolerance, empathy and respect for others and their property
- High self esteem
- Good listening, learning and working habits
- Good manners
- Moral understanding of what is right and wrong
- Reduction of bullying incidents

Expectations for Staff

- Be highly organised, delivering well planned, structured and differentiated lessons, ensuring that each child is achieving at his/her own level.
- Be fair, courteous and consistent.
- Promote and affirm positive behaviour.
- To have high expectations, academically and socially for children.
- Creation of a positive learning environment.
- Develop and nurture a sense of self-esteem in each pupil.
- Develop positive and nurturing relationships with children.
- Keep opportunities for disruptive behaviour to a minimum
- 'Catch children being good' and praise the behaviour.
- Liaising with other staff in tracking pupils' behaviour, devising and implementing individual behaviour plans.

Expectations for Parents/Guardians.

- To encourage and support their children to follow this Code of Behaviour.
- To cooperate with the school as required.
- Parents may be asked to work in a class with teachers to assist in devising strategies to support positive behaviour.
- To assist school in developing and implementing individual behaviour plans, when necessary.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

In Cnoc Mhuire Senior School the children are made clearly aware of the expected behaviour in the school and a strong emphasis is placed on praising and rewarding this behaviour. Teachers may choose from the following strategies to promote good behaviour within their classes:

- Verbal praise or congratulations from the teacher
- Stars or stamps on children's work
- Sent to the Principal for praise or a small prize
- Note or certificates from the teacher sent home (in homework diary)
- Homework Pass
- Golden Points and House Points – for team effort
- Class treat or fun activity at the discretion of the teacher
- Class motivational trips (children earn places on trips)
- Whole school good behaviour trips.
- Golden Time – (sports or board games)
- Individual Star Cards (children receive stickers or stamps for good work and good behaviour)
- Pupil of the Week or Month, Term and Year (prizes and announced at assembly)
- Golden Tickets
- Responsibilities such as 'Class Captain' and 'Vice Captain'

At Cnoc Mhuire Senior School good behaviour is both encouraged and rewarded at all times. The children are constantly reminded of our School Rules and of the rewards and sanctions.

Systems and programmes like the following may be used to teach and promote positive behaviour.

- The S.P.H.E programme.
- Circle time
- Restorative Practices
- School counsellor
- Care team
- Support Teacher
- Classroom Support Plan
- Individual behaviour plan
- Buddying systems
- Teacher modeling of positive behaviour at all times
- SNA support as required
- Lessons about bullying
- Working with outside agencies

Restorative Practices

The aim of Restorative Practices (RP) is to develop capacity in the school to manage conflict and tensions by repairing harm and building relationships, using a 'reform, not blame' approach. We promote an environment of respect,

empathy and tolerance between staff and pupils. Pupils are encouraged to solve minor disputes themselves and circles are used in the classrooms to problem solve and encourage open and honest communication to resolve problems. Teachers are encouraged to use the following questions in dealing with challenging behaviour or disputes.

Responding to challenging behaviour

- What happened?
- What were you thinking at the time?
- What have your thoughts been since?
- Who has been affected by what you did?
- In what way have they been affected?
- What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

Responding to those harmed

- What happened?
- What were your thoughts at the time?
- What have your thoughts been since?
- How has this affected you and others?
- What has been the hardest thing for you?
- What do you think needs to happen next?

School Rules

Classroom rules

- Be on time and be prepared.
- Give all your work your best effort.
- Do your work quietly. Let others do theirs.
- Listen well. Do as you are told straight away.
- Be polite and kind to all.
- Respect property.

Around school rules

- Wear full school uniform at all times, school tracksuit on PE days only.
- Only healthy foods are allowed in school and surrounds.
- Know when you need a note.

- Pupils are not allowed to wear make-up, large earrings or large finger rings.
- Mobile phones are not allowed in school.

Yard rules

- Obey all staff at all times.
- Stay on site.
- Make the playground a safe and happy place.
- Respect school surroundings

Examples of unacceptable behaviour: *The following are examples of the type of misbehaviour which children may be reprimanded for:*

- Not carrying out or completing assigned work in school or at home without good reason.
- Ignoring teacher's instructions.
- Distracting other students or constant talking.
- Displaying a bad attitude to others in the school.
- Having a mobile phone, IPOD, MP3 or other electronic/internet device on school campus.
- Unruliness on corridor.
- Engaging in dangerous games, rough play or boisterous behaviour eg. Fighting, kicking, spitting etc.
- Vandalism or theft of other pupils' or school property.
- Intentional bad language, slagging and name calling.
- Threatening, intimidating behaviour towards other children and/or staff.
- Bullying behavior- see anti-bullying policy
- Leaving class/school/yard without permission.
- Regular breaking of school rules in the yard, in the classroom or around the school grounds.

Sanctions and Procedures for Solving Problems.

Sanctions are necessary to register disapproval of unacceptable behaviour. These sanctions/consequences contain a degree of flexibility with due regard to age, emotional development and individual circumstances.

The following is a list of possible sanctions or strategies which may be used in Cnoc Mhuire Senior School.

- Reasoning/speaking calmly to the pupil explaining that his/her behaviour is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

- Verbal reprimand from the class or other teacher with advice on how to improve.
- A note/comment on the misbehaviour in homework journal to be signed by parent/guardian.
- Restorative circle and/or conference.
- Time out in a specified area within the classroom.
- Yellow card (a warning card)
- Temporary removal from class.
- Letter and phone call home to inform parents.
- Support Teacher and /or Principal involved, behaviour plan drawn up and implemented.
- Meeting with teacher and/or Principal.
- In-school suspension
- Suspension warning.
- Suspension
- Reduced timetable
- Expulsion

In the case of repeated minor misbehaviour or serious misbehaviour the Support Teacher and/or Principal will intervene.

A behaviour tracker (record of behaviour) may be set up and brought to attention of pupil and parent. This will monitor and record the pupil's behaviour. Teacher may consult with the care team in how best to support the pupil and improve his/her behaviour.

Pupil Behaviour in Yard and School Grounds.

1. Pupils must follow the yard rules at all times.
2. Pupils must remain within the designated yard for their class grouping, staying away from the bushes, steps and within the boundaries.
3. Drinks or food are not permitted on the yard.
4. Pupils must seek permission to re-enter the school building during break times.
5. Rough or violent play will not be tolerated on the yard.
6. When the first whistle blows, all pupils must stop and stand still.
7. When the second whistle blows, all pupils must walk to their lines and stand in an orderly fashion.
8. Pupils must exit the school in an orderly manner.
9. Pupils must never leave the school without permission.
10. On wet days children will stay in their classrooms.

Sanctions for yard.

Minor offences: Time out in circle for a period of time as determined by staff member.

More serious offence: Stand in circle and name in yard book. Off yard for a number of days if deemed appropriate by the Deputy Principal.

Violent offence: Sent to teacher on indoor duty. Off yard for a number of days as determined by Deputy Principal.

Deputy Principal will monitor yard books. Yard books to be returned to her every day.

Expectations and sanctions for yard behaviour will be regularly communicated to pupils by teachers and principal, in class and at assembly.

Pupil behaviour on school linked activities.

Children are expected to follow the school rules at all times. Children may not be permitted on an excursion if their behaviour is a health and safety concern.

Bullying

Bullying is not tolerated at all in Scoil Cnoc Mhuire. Any bullying that may occur will be taken very seriously by staff and principal and will be dealt with.

Parents and children are encouraged to inform teachers, if bullying is suspected. *Refer to Anti-Bullying Policy for further details.*

Suspension and Expulsion

- Before serious sanctions such as suspension or expulsion are considered, the normal channels of communication between school and home are used. Communication with parents may be verbal or by letter. Parents will be invited up to the school to discuss their child's case with a view to preventing a repetition of the misbehaviour.
- Prior to the suspension, the principal may review the case in consultation with the teachers and other staff members involved. Records of previous misbehaviours, their patterns and context, sanctions and interventions used and their outcome and any other relevant information will be investigated

and taken into account. Suspension will be in accordance with the Rules for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000.

- The principal has permission from the Board of Management to suspend a child for up to 5 days.
- If a child is suspended for 20 days or more within a school year, the National Education Welfare Board will be notified. Parents may appeal a suspension when it will bring the child to over 20 days suspended, in accordance with section 29 of the Education Act.
- After a period of suspension the Principal will meet with the child and child's parents and will readmit the child to the school, provided that the parent/s and pupil give a satisfactory undertaking that a suspended pupil will behave in accordance with the school code. 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.

The following behaviour or any behaviour which threatens the health and safety of pupils and/or staff can warrant immediate and automatic suspension at the Principal's discretion.-

- *Abusive language, without remorse, or physical attacks against a member of staff or pupil.*
- *Aggressive physical assault against another pupil/staff member.*
- *Participation and/or inciting of violent and/or aggressive behaviour.*
- *Deliberate and serious damage to property belonging to school staff and/or pupils*
- *Persistent disruption of class or refusal by a pupil to do what he/she is asked, which has a serious detrimental effect on the education of the other students.*
- *Possession of a potential weapon on school premises.*

A single incident of serious misconduct may be grounds for suspension.

Expulsion

Expulsion of a pupil will only be considered in the most extreme cases of unacceptable behaviour and only after all other sanctions, including repeated suspensions have been exhausted. Expulsion from the school is a function of the Board of Management. It will be done in accordance with the rules for national schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000. Before expelling a pupil the following steps will be taken:

- A detailed investigation under the direction of the Principal.
- A recommendation to the Board of Management by the Principal.
- Consideration by the Board of Management of the Principal's recommendation and the holding of a hearing. Parents may attend this hearing.
- Board of Management deliberations and actions following the hearing.
- Consultations arranged by the Educational Welfare Officer.
- Confirmation of the decision to expel.

Parents will be informed of our Code of Behaviour and of our Aims, Sanctions and Rewards through; -

- Enrolment form and enrolment meeting. Parents and children must agree to and sign up to our Code of Behaviour on enrolment.
- September class meetings.
- P/T. Meetings.
- Note to parents outlining school rules, sanctions and rewards.

Success criteria

Success of this Policy will be assessed by;-

- Observation by teachers and parents.
- Review of yard incident books and behaviour trackers by relevant class teachers and principal.
- Discussions at staff meetings.

Roles and responsibility

- The Principal will co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of this policy.
- Teachers and auxiliary staff will also monitor and enforce this policy.
- Parents will be informed of this policy and expected to support and encourage its enforcement.

References

Health and Safety Policy

Enrolment Policy

NEWB- Guidelines for Developing a Code of Behaviour (2008)

Timeframe for implementation.

This policy will be implemented in January 2009.

Timeframe for review.

This policy will be regularly reviewed by the whole staff.

Ratification and communication.

An information sheet will be given to all parents annually and to all applicants on enrolment. Copies of full policy are readily available in the office on request.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management in January 2009.

Review

This policy was reviewed by staff in November 2011 and May 2014.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date

Code of Behaviour information sheet

Classroom rules

- Be on time and be prepared.
- Give all your work your best effort.
- Do your work quietly. Let others do theirs.
- Listen well. Do as you are told straight away.
- Be polite and kind to all.
- Respect property.

Around school rules

- Wear full school uniform at all times, school tracksuit on PE days only.
- Only healthy foods are allowed in school and surrounds.
- Know when you need a note.
- Pupils are not allowed to wear make-up, large earrings or large finger rings.
- Mobile phones are not allowed in school.

Yard rules

- Obey all staff at all times.
- Stay on site.
- Make the playground a safe and happy place.
- Respect school surroundings.

Please read both sides, sign this copy and return to your child's teacher.

I understand and will abide by the Cnoc Mhuire Senior School Code of Behaviour including school rules as they are now and as they may be amended in the future.

Signed _____

Parent

Signed _____

Pupil

Code of Behaviour information sheet

To be signed and retained by parents on enrolment

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- Respect school surroundings.

Please keep this copy for your own information and the return the signed copy to the school

Summary of Code of Behaviour

Please refer to full Code of Behaviour for further details. Copies are freely available in the school. *Copies of the full policy are available from the office.*

Cnoc Mhuire Senior School's Code of Behaviour has been drawn up to set clear standards and guidelines of the behaviour which is expected throughout the school. Its purpose is to provide a safe and secure environment for all children and staff members. The Code of Behaviour is designed to promote a friendly and happy atmosphere for all. We are a restorative school and restorative practices inform our behaviour management.

Listed are **some** strategies used to promote good behaviour within their classes:

- Verbal praise or congratulations from the teacher
- Stars or stamps on children's work
- Sent to the Principal for praise or a small prize
- Golden Points and House Points – for team effort
- Class treat or fun activity at the discretion of the teacher
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- Pupil of the Week/term/year trophies and prizes and announced at assembly

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See policy for full details

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- Intentional bad language, slagging, name calling.
- Bullying or intimidation.
- Leaving class/school/yard without permission.
- Regular breaking of school rules in the yard, in the classroom or around the school grounds.

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- Restorative circle or conference.
- Time out in a specified area within the classroom.
- Yellow card (a warning card)
- Temporary removal from class.
- Temporary withdrawal of privileges.
- Letter and phone call home to inform parents.
- Support Teacher and /or Principal involved, behaviour plan drawn up and implemented.
- Meeting with teacher and/or Principal.
- In-school suspension.
- Suspension warning.
- Reduced timetable.
- Suspension
- Expulsion for major misbehaviour- **See policy for full details.**

In the case of repeated minor misbehaviour or serious misbehaviour the Support Teacher and/or Principal will intervene.

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