

Code of Behaviour

The Code of Behaviour seeks to create a happy atmosphere where Christian virtues of respect, obedience, fairness, forgiveness, trust and truth are practised. The aim of the Code of Behaviour is to achieve and maintain a harmonious teaching and learning environment.

Our approach to discipline is a 'positive' one that concentrates on all aspects of school life including class-work, homework, play, dealing with correction, success and failure. Over a period of time, such an approach enables the children to develop self-discipline that in turn will guide and direct them as they develop into young adults.

Parents, the prime educators of their children, play a key role in helping their child achieve positive attitudes in these areas by taking an active interest in the child's school life and by being fully aware at all times of how their child is coping with the work aspect of school as well as with the social dimensions of the child's life.

Principles of the Code

Our Code of Behaviour:

- Promotes positive behaviour in order to develop self-discipline.
- Acknowledges the profound influence that self-esteem has on learning.
- Recognises the uniqueness and endless potential of each child and attempts to communicate that image to them.
- Embraces failure as well as success as important in the process of learning.
- Sees the support and co-operation of parents as being essential to the effective operation of the 'Code of Behaviour.'
- Imposes sanctions in order to maintain good order and to discourage offenders.

Strategies/Incentives to encourage Positive Behaviour

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment on a child's exercise book.
- A visit to another class or Principal for commendation.
- Praise in front of class group.
- Individual class merit awards, point awards or award stamps.
- 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 behaviour and discourage misbehaviour. Sanctions will be applied according to the gravity of the misbehaviour, with due regard to age and emotional development. These may include:

- (a) Reasoning with the pupil
- (b) Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
- (c) Temporary separation from peers, friends or others (within class/different class)
- (d) Prescribing extra work.
- (e) Loss of privileges – which may include golden time, library, ICT, Trips etc
- (f) Detention during a break or break at a separate time to peers (SNA dependant)
- (g) Prescribing additional work
- (h) Referral to Principal Teacher
- (i) Communication with parents - Note Home
- (j) Suspension

Bullying

Bullying clearly runs counter to the school philosophy of promoting the ideals of care and respect. Central to our Code of Behaviour is the notion that nobody has the right to make another feel uncomfortable by any action or by any use of language.

We encourage children to report to the Principal/teacher any incident of bullying of which they know, so that appropriate action may be taken.

Pupils' Anti-Bullying Charter

- I promise to be pleasant and friendly, to be truthful, honest and fair.
- I will encourage and invite other children to join in games provided they abide by the rules.
- I will help classmates who are bullied by other children.
- I will not kick, push, strike or punch.
- I will not name call, threaten, tell lies.
- I will not sneer at, make fun of or intimidate.
- I will not exclude other children at play, at games or when taking part in school activities.

Implementation of the Code

Our code acknowledges three broad categories of misbehaviour as

- a) misdemeanour
- b) serious misbehaviour
- c) gross misbehaviour

When misbehaviour occurs, the following is a list of possible sanctions, strategies and procedures that may be used.

Misdemeanour

1. The pupil is made aware that his/her behaviour is unacceptable.
2. The child receives a verbal reprimand from teacher and is asked to make a conscious effort to improve.
3. The child may be temporarily separated from peers, friends and others within classroom and yard.
4. A note or comment on misbehaviour may be written on child's homework notebook to be signed by parents/guardians.
5. The Principal will be informed if there is no improvement.
6. If children continue to disrupt class, the parents/guardians will be asked to meet with the teacher and or Principal to give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future.

Examples of Misdemeanour

- Continuous talking in class
- Inattention
- Pushing in the line
- No homework done on a regular basis
- Repeated interruption or shouting out
- Disobedience
- Not wearing the correct uniform
- Taking the belongings of others without permission

Serious Misbehaviour

1. In instances of serious misbehaviour the pupil will:
 - a) be made aware that their behaviour is unacceptable
 - b) be detained under supervision during the mid-morning and/or lunch break.
 - c) Parents/guardians will be informed that this action has been taken.
2. In instances of repeated serious misbehaviour the parents/guardians will be requested to meet with the teacher and/or the Principal and be asked:
 - a) to give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future.
 - b) to keep in regular contact i.e. at least once a week, with the teacher and/or Principal to keep informed of the child's behaviour.
3. If the serious misbehaviour continues the Principal or the Board of Management may suspend the pupil for a temporary period of three days.

Examples of serious Misbehaviour

- All misdemeanours when on a continuous basis
- Rough play leading to a child getting hurt
- Fighting
- Refusal to do work
- Stealing from others
- Ongoing lying, dishonesty
- Showing disrespect for others or for property
- Hitting or aggressive behaviour
- Bad/inappropriate language or gestures
- Racist remarks or name calling
- Biting, spitting or kicking

A special decision of the Board of Management is necessary to authorise a period of suspension beyond three school days and in exceptional circumstances the Board of Management may authorise a further period of suspension up to a maximum of ten school days.

Gross Misbehaviour

In instances of gross misbehaviour:

- a) the pupil will be sent immediately to the Principal's office
- b) parents/guardians will be contacted and requested to meet with the Principal as soon as possible.
- c) warned that should there be another incidence of serious misbehaviour the Board of Management, may authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension or expulsion in accordance with the provisions of the Educational Welfare Act 2000.

Examples of Gross Misbehaviour

- All serious misbehaviour when on a continuous basis
- Blatant disobedience or disrespect
- Insults to staff
- Damage to property
- Bullying
- Threats
- Any behaviour which has a detrimental effect on the Education or safety of others
- Assault on staff

A special decision of the Board of Management is necessary to authorise a period of suspension beyond three school days and in exceptional circumstances the Board of Management may authorise a further period of suspension.

Damage, Loss or Theft of School Property

- a) Recompense is expected to be made by pupil/parents/guardians for damage to, loss or theft of property.
- b) Appropriate sanctions and procedures to be followed, depending on which category of misbehaviour – serious or gross – the offence applies to.

CHILDREN'S CODE

Work hard. Always try your best.

Take care of your belongings

Take care of the belongings of others

Take turns and be polite and mannerly

Be kind and gentle to others

Always tell the truth

Help each other

Expectations of Pupils

- Show respect for teachers, parents, fellow pupils and visitors to the school at all times
- Attend school and not miss days without good reason
- Arrive on time in a good mood
- Don't leave during the day without permission
- Respect all school property and the property of others
- Wear the school uniform
- Use nice language
- Move quietly around the school
- Complete your homework fully and on time
- Listen when others are talking
- Participate in all class activities
- Accept the differences of others