



*Principal: Mr. Ken Scully M.Ed*

## Code of behaviour Scoil Ghráinne CNS

### **Aims:**

- a) In devising the code, consideration has to be given to the particular needs and circumstances of this school. The aim is to create an ordered and orderly environment in which pupils can, through developing self-discipline, feel secure and make progress in all aspects of their development.
- b) Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school.

### **Principles:**

- a) The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
- b) 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.
- c) Every effort will be made to ensure that the code of discipline is implemented in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner
- d) This code incorporates our values and standards for the entire school and the rules below apply jointly to both staff and pupils
- e) It is not the policy of this school to use any form of corporal punishment whatsoever, and we discourage and advise our parents to not resort to it either

This code of behaviour will be available on the school's website and given to parents on enrolment of their child.

### **School Rules:**

- I will be **gentle** - I will not hurt anyone.
- I will be **kind** - I will not hurt people's feelings.
- I will be **honest** - I will not hide the truth.
- I will **listen** - I will not interrupt.
- I will **respect** people and property - I will not waste or damage things.
- I will **work hard** - I will not waste time.

These rules focus on the positive rather than the negative and are short in number so as to be easily learned and taught.

The school rules will be taught to all the pupils and will be revised by each class on a regular basis.

## School Timetable

School begins: 8.50 a.m.

School Closes: Junior & Senior Infants 1.30 p.m.

Other Classes 2.30 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 ensure that it is done.

## Strategies

No code of behaviour can be so exhaustive as to cater for all eventualities, therefore, we as a staff will be flexible in implementing the code so as to respond effectively to the individual needs and context of each child.

### (a) 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.
- A system of merit marks.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- A mention to parent, written or verbal communication.

### (b) Disapproval of unacceptable behaviour may be dealt with as follows:-

(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/Deputy-Principal.
- Note to parents
- Stand on the sad face in the yard
- Be placed on the thinking chair
- Suspension/expulsion

## Procedures:

The degree of misdemeanours i.e. 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 misdemeanours, as follows:

### **Examples of minor misdemeanours:**

Interrupting class work / Arriving late for school / Running in school building / Talking 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 / Endangering self/fellow pupils in the school yard at break time.

### **Examples of serious misdemeanours**

Constantly disruptive in class / Telling lies / Stealing / damaging other pupil's or school's property

Bullying / back answering a teacher / leaving school premises during school day without appropriate permission.

Not working to full potential / using unacceptable language / deliberately injuring a fellow pupil.

### **SUSPENSION:**

In the case of a serious offence or repeated continual less serious misdemeanours the child may be suspended from school.

The authority to suspend lies in the following persons

Principal: may suspend a child for up to 3 days

Principal & Chairperson BOM: may suspend a child for up to 5 days

BOM (single manager): May suspend a child for up to 10 days.

Examples of offences that warrant suspension are:

- where the behaviour of the child has a seriously detrimental effect on the education of the other children;
- where the child poses a threat to the safety of other children, staff, themselves or others;
- where there has been serious damage to property;

When a child is suspended from school their parents/guardians will receive written notification confirming;

- the period of suspension and dates
- reasons for suspension
- arrangements for returning to school including any commitments to be entered into by the pupils and parents
- provision of appeal to the BOM / Single Manager
- notification of right to section 29 appeal if total no. of days suspension exceed 20
- allowances will be made for parents with reading or language difficulties, i.e. the suspension may be explained orally to them.

If a suspension exceeds 6 school days a report will be furnished by the school to the NEWB (National Educational Welfare Board)

## EXPULSION:

In the case of expulsion, the authority to expel will rest solely with the BOM/ Single Manager.

Grounds for expulsion include but are not limited to the following:

- behaviour is a persistent cause of significant disruption to the learning of others or to the teaching process
- the continued presence of the pupil constitutes a real and significant threat to the safety of the staff, pupils, child themselves or others
- where the pupil is responsible for serious damage of property

The difference between behaviours that warrant suspension and expulsion are

- the degree of seriousness and persistence of behaviour
- where an expulsion is considered a series of interventions will have been attempted by the school
- all possibilities within the power of the school of changing the child's behaviour will have been exhausted (with the exception of cases warranting automatic expulsion)

The BOM /Single Manager may automatically expel a child for the following prescribed behaviours or in exceptional cases for a first offence, including;

- sexual assault
- possessing illegal drugs/ selling illegal drugs to other pupils
- actual violence or physical assault
- serious threat of violence against another pupil or member of staff

The following procedures in respect for expulsion will generally be followed.

- a detailed investigation will be carried out under the direction of the principal
- a recommendation by the principal to expel the child will be given to the BOM/ Single Manager
- the BOM / Single Manager will consider the principal's recommendation and will hold a hearing
- the BOM will decide whether or not expulsion is appropriate
- the EWO (Educational Welfare officer) will be informed and there will be a 20 day cooling off period after which a confirmation or otherwise of the decision to expel will be decided



I \_\_\_\_\_ have read this code of behaviour  
(Name of Parent/Guardian)  
and understand its contents.

I agree to abide by its contents and procedures laid out and to ensure that my child,

\_\_\_\_\_ does likewise.  
(Name of Child)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_