

Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir

Code of Behaviour Policy

Introduction

This policy arises from practices/ discussions/ views involving teachers, pupils, parents and the board of management that have been used or put forward during the growth of Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir.

Rationale

It was also felt that we needed to expand on our present policy. DES circular 20/90 requires that schools have a school discipline policy and this policy takes account of its guidelines.

Ethos

As an interdenominational school Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir recognises the values and traditions of all our pupils. We will promote toleration of any differences that exists between the pupils. We aim to develop understanding, respect and a high level of cooperation between staff, parents and pupils.

Aims

- To create a happy and orderly environment in which pupils can, through developing self- discipline, feel secure and make progress in all aspects of their education and develop to their full potential.
- To allow the school to function in an orderly and harmonious way.
- To enhance the learning environment where children can make progress in all aspects of their development.
- To create an atmosphere of respect, tolerance and consideration for others.
- To promote positive behaviour and self- discipline, recognising the differences between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
- To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the school community.
- To ensure that the system of rules, rewards and sanctions are implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
- To assist parents in understanding the code and practices and through their support and cooperation achieve a high standard of behaviour.

School Rules

- Irish the language of communication in the school.
- School starts at 9.15 and all pupils should be in school by then to avoid disruption.
- For safety purposes pupils should enter the yard in an orderly manner.
- Pupils must never leave the school premises without prior permission from parent/guardian and knowledge of a teacher.
- Children should be collected from the classroom and if necessary left back to the classroom.

- All movement around the school must be quiet and orderly.
- Children are expected to treat each other with respect, courtesy and consideration, to be kind and respectful to teachers and mannerly at all times.
- Children should respect furniture, equipment, books and school buildings and grounds.
- School uniform must be worn and P.E. clothes on the designated days.
- Children should have a sensible nutritional lunch. Crisps, chewing gum, glass bottles and fizzy drinks are forbidden. Unfinished lunch, cartons, wrappings must be brought home.
- Bullying, foul or aggressive language is strictly forbidden.
- Cycling within club/school grounds is forbidden.
- Rules of lunchtime/ yard must be obeyed.

Children Caring For Themselves

- Books, copies, schoolbags should be kept in good order.
- Be Punctual.
- Be Proud of my school.
- Ensure Personal cleanliness.
- Do my best.
- Care for others.
- Be Respectful and kind.
- Take my turn and give others their fair chance.
- Behave well.
- Be truthful and honest.
- Bullying (separate policy). Pupils should never bully others and should never allow others to bully them. If it does happen I should tell my parents/guardians and teachers. Bullying is always unacceptable.

Strategies and Sanctions

The school code places greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions and the ideal is the pupils will acquire the skill of self- discipline. There are times however when it may be necessary to impose sanctions in order to maintain good order and to discourage offenders. The school recognises the variety of differences which exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences. School rules are kept to a minimum and are devised with regard for the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community.

Strategies

Praise may be given by 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

Sanctions

- Reasoning with the pupil.
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
- Temporary separation from peers, friends or others.
- Loss of privileges
- Children may be asked to write an account of the incident, giving both sides of the story and an apology. This is also to be signed by parents.
- Detentions e.g. miss part of a break.
- Prescribing extra work/ homework.
- Parents informed wither through signed notes/ meeting.
- Principal informed.
- B.O.M. informed. Suspension temporary as a last resort (Circular 7/88 DES sets out suspension/ expulsion conditions Rule 130: 5+6).

Where necessary

- Behaviour record is kept by each teacher.

The record notes the following:

- Incidents of poor behaviour.
- Record of improvement.
- Record of discussion with parents.

Procedures

The degree of misdemeanours i.e. minor or serious , will be judged by the teachers and/or principal based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity/ frequency of such misdemeanours.

Examples of Minor Misdemeanours

Interrupting class work/ Arriving late for school/ Running in school building/ Misbehaviour in class line/ Leaving seat without permission at lunch time/ Placing unfinished food/drink cartons in class bin/ Leaving litter around school/ Not wearing correct uniform/ Being discourteous/ unmannerly/ Not completing homework without good reason/ not having notes signed by a parent/ Endangering self/ fellow pupils in the school yard at break time.

High Level Misbehaviour

Constantly disruptive in class/ Aggressive dangerous behaviour/ fighting/ very rough play/ Use of inappropriate language/ Serious forms of bullying behaviour/ defiance, hostility towards staff or fellow pupils/ vandalism/ Leaving school premises or going to areas within the school without the required permission/ having objects that could be dangerous.

Rules

Morning Time: Children walk in and gather in groups. They are allowed to walk from group to group BUT no running or playing. Doors are usually opened between 9.00am and 9.05am. Children proceed in their classrooms at 9.15 in orderly lines one behind another.

Within classroom each teacher will have a procedure but usually children hang up coats and place lunch boxes on shelf and organise their books, copies etc. All must be done orderly and quietly to avoid accidents.

Wet Days: Children will be brought in to the classroom from 9.05am onwards. Lines at all times must be safe so no playing/ pushing or leaving position. Children walk to and from classrooms and must also walk when moving around classroom or around the school.

Evening Time: Children walk to the gate calmly as the school/ club exit is a dangerous area.

During wet days children remain in the classroom. They will have specific things organised for them e.g. Board games, but always they are expected to be seated and calm.

Implementation

This policy is already in place.

Parent's views and cooperation are always welcome on this policy and also the views of Board of Management and Staff.

Success Criteria

This policy, if successful, should result in positive feedback from teachers, parents and pupils. Its effectiveness will also be measured through observation of behaviour in classrooms and yard.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Principal will co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of this policy. The class teachers will be responsible for its implementation in the class situation and will also be alert to any unacceptable behaviour in the school at all times.

Review

The policy is always open to review and amendment and time made available at staff/board of management meetings for this.

Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir

Code of Behaviour Policy Acknowledgement

I/we confirm that I/we the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) have received and accept the code of behaviour policy from Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir and I/we have signed below to acknowledge same.

Signed:

Child / Children(s) Name

Parent / Guardian Name

Parent / Guardian Name

Date