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**Code of Behaviour**

 **Introduction:**

 • In devising this ‘Code of Behaviour’ for Ballycurrane N.S. we have taken into consideration the particular needs and circumstances of the school.

• In Ballycurrane N.S. we aim to accommodate the individuality of each child while acknowledging the right of each child to an education in a safe and relatively disruption free environment.

• Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt and promote a positive approach to the question of behaviour in Ballycurrane N.S.and all activities related to the school.

 • In Ballycurrane N.S. we place greater emphasis on praise and reward than on sanctions in the belief that this will give the best results.

• The school recognises the variety of differences between children and the need to accommodate these differences.

• It is agreed that a high standard of behaviour requires and promotes a strong sense of community and a high level of co-operation among staff and between staff, pupils and parents/guardians.

• Our school rules are kept to a minimum and are positively stated in terms of what pupils should do.

 • All efforts will be made to match the curriculum to the abilities and aptitudes of each pupil.

• The overall responsibility for discipline in the school rests with the Principal. Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within his/her classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good order within the school premises and on school related activities, in keeping with the school’s Code of Behaviour.

• The Principal will be informed of incidents of Serious or Gross Misbehaviour.

 **Discipline for Learning (DFL):**

In our school, we have a positive approach to teaching and learning. Positive rules for behaviour in class and out of class are learned by pupils at the beginning of their school year. Pupils are disciplined by being motivated to keep these rules.

 We have many ways of recognizing good behaviour and effort including awards, stamps, positive cards, smiles, positive comments, student of the month and homework passes. Good behaviour and achievement will be recognised. Consistent positive influences are the key to success in our school.

**Restorative Practice:**

 Restorative Practice in our school provides a focus on developing positive relationships between all members of the school community. It gives opportunities for pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour and learning. Restorative Practice is a process whereby children are given the opportunity to reflect on their behaviour and how they and others have been affected by it so as to help heal broken relationships and prevent reoccurrence. Where suspension occurs, the school will use restorative practice involving all parties affected to help repair the harm done.

**Restorative Questions to respond to Challenging Behaviour:**

 1. What happened?

 2. What were you thinking about at the time?

3. What have your thoughts been since?

 4. Who has been affected by what you did?

 5. In what way have they been affected?

6. What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

To help those harmed by other actions:

 1. What did you think when you realised what had happened?

2. What have your thoughts been since?

 3. How has this affected others?

4. What has been the hardest thing for you?

5. What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

General Guidelines for Behaviour:

All pupils are expected to behave in a reasonable manner both to themselves and to others, showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other pupils and adults at all times. Respect must be shown at all times. Respect must be shown for the property of the individual and of the school at all times.

**Code of Behaviour**

 The code of Behaviour covers the following areas:

• Behaviour in class

• Behaviour in the playground

• Behaviour in the school environment and behaviour on school outings

• Attendance at school/Education Welfare Act

• Homework after school and extra-curricular activities in the school.

 **Behaviour in class:**

 Courtesy and respect are essential. Disrespectful behaviour towards other pupils or towards a teacher (e.g. defiance, cheek, insolence) are unacceptable. Pupils must respect the right of other pupils to learn. Any behaviour which interferes with the right (e.g. constant disruption of the class, persistent distracting of others) is considered unacceptable behaviour. In order that pupils benefit from their work in class full co-operation is required at all times. Pupils must co-operate with instructions given by the teacher.

**Classroom Rules**

 1. Be ready for class

2. Good manners are expected at all times

3. Always do your best and allow others to do the same

4. Raise hand wait for attention and listen to the person who is speaking

5. Take good care of personal and classroom property.

6. Ensure you are safe in class and make it safe for others

**Behaviour in the Playground:**

 Pupils should treat others as they would like to be treated themselves. Any behaviour which endangers or offends others is not permitted. Rough behaviour e.g. fighting, kicking, spitting, pushing is forbidden. Games or activities considered to be dangerous shall be prohibited.

 Any behaviour which interferes with other pupil’s play is not permitted.

**Out of Class Rules:**

1. Play safely and fairly

2. Treat others with respect, the way you would like yourself to be treated

3. Keep yard and school environment litter free and tidy

 4. Stay clear of fire alarm and respect all school property

5. Line up quickly and quietly and leave and return to your classroom in an orderly fashion.

 6. Pupils may not leave the playground for any reason without permission.

**Both Classroom and Out of Class Rules will be displayed in all classrooms. Teachers will remind the children of the rules at the start of each term.**

**Behaviour in the School Environment & Behaviour on School outings:**

 Respect and courtesy to others is essential. Any kind of verbal or physical abuse of other pupils is unacceptable. Use of foul language among pupils is unacceptable. Bullying or intimidation of other pupils is prohibited and is always regarded as a serious offence. Pupils must show respect for school property at all times. For reasons of safety and to minimise accidents, pupils should move about the school in an orderly manner.

Pupils are encouraged to be respectful of each other on their way to and from school. When on school outings pupils are expected to behave in an orderly manner and show respect for public property. They should always co-operate fully with their teachers, other school staff and volunteer helpers.

**Strategies to commend Positive Behaviour:**

Praise may be given by one or more of the following:

• A quiet word or gesture to show approval.

 • A comment in pupil’s diary or exercise book.

 • A visit to another member of staff or the principal for commendation.

• A word of praise in front of a group or class.

• A mention to parents, written or verbal communication.

• A system of merit marks or treats.

 • Delegating some special responsibility or privilege

**Examples of Unacceptable Behaviour (This list is not presumed to be exhaustive):**

 • Class Disruption

Disobedience

 • Failure to engage in lessons as required.

• Homework not done or diary not signed.

• Failure to obey classroom, school or playground procedure e.g. (Running, pushing, throwing objects in school building, not lining up when bell rings etc.)

**Examples of Serious Misbehaviour**:

• Repeated instances of Misdemeanours (as listed above)

• Insolence

• Disrespect

• Bullying or intimidating others.

• Fighting (even pretend), teasing or name-calling.

• The use of inappropriate or bad language to fellow pupils, teachers or other school employees.

• Theft

**Examples of Gross Misbehaviour:**

• Repeated instances of serious misbehaviour (as listed above)

• Repeated bullying, threatening others or physical violence.

 • Continuous class disruption or deliberate wasting of teachers’ and other pupils’ class time.

• Vandalism.

• Leaving school and grounds without permission during the school day.

• Deliberate or Serious behaviour that is deemed to threaten the safety and welfare of others.

**Procedure following breaches of discipline:**

 If the misdemeanour is occasional/seldom the following strategies may be applied by the class teacher – the Principal will not be involved at this stage: (The nature of the behaviour, the age of the child and the circumstances will determine the strategy).

 1. Reasoning with the pupil.

2. Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)

3. Extra homework or class work

4. Time-Out at break-time.

5. Child is sent to another classroom for a short period of time.

 6. Loss of privileges eg Golden Time, Pitch

7. In each class a record of misdemeanours will be kept by the teacher.

8. Persistent misdemeanours (more than 3) in a short period of time will constitute Serious Misbehaviour.

**For all incidents of Serious Misbehaviour (as listed on previous page) the following strategies will apply:**

• Pupil’s name will be written in **‘Class Incident Book’** and an informal note/phone call by class teacher will be sent to parents/guardians informing them of misbehaviour.

Pupil’s name will be written in ‘**Class Incident Book’** for a second time and an informal not/phonecall by the class teacher will be sent to the parents/guardians informing them of the misbehaviour.

• In the case of **persistent** serious misbehaviour, the parents/guardians concerned will be invited to attend a formal meeting with the Principal and Class Teacher to discuss the child’s behaviour.

• The pupil is formally warned that future misbehaviour by him/her will lead to him/her being recorded in the ‘**Office Incident Book’**. (Advice and suggestions on how to improve behaviour are again given)

• If misbehaviour continues pupil is recorded in the ‘**Office Incident Book’**. Parents/Guardians are informed and invited in by Principal to discuss persistent misbehaviour and an undertaking must be given that pupil will be on good behaviour.

• If pupil is recorded in the ‘**Office Incident Book’** for a 2nd time this will be regarded as Gross Misbehaviour leading to a decision to Suspend.

**For all incidents of Gross Misbehaviour the following strategies will apply**:

• Principal informs Chairperson of Board of Management and parents/guardians are invited in by letter to meet Chairperson and Principal.

 • If parents/guardians come in and parents/guardians and pupil give an undertaking that pupil will be on good behaviour, suspension **may** be deferred.

 • If parents/guardians do **not** come in and an undertaking for good behaviour is not given by them and by the pupil, **Suspension applies**.

• Suspension will be notified by letter.

 **The decision to suspend from Ballycurrane N.S. will be considered as a last resort when other possibilities have been tried.**

• A first suspension will be of 3 days duration. (Suspension will be in accordance with Rule 130(5) of the Rules for National Schools.

 • Once a pupil has been suspended, any misbehaviour on returning to school will result on the pupil being recorded in the ‘**Office Incident Book’** immediately and other suspensions may follow should the misbehaviour continue.

 • In the case of **Gross Misbehaviour** the Board authorises the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension pending a discussion on the matter with parents/guardians.

• Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case of Gross misbehaviour in accordance with Rule 130(6).

• Every effort will be made to have an emotionally disturbed child referred for Psychological assessment without delay. Help will be sought from support services within the wider community.

**Parents are expected to:**

• Ensure their children attend school and are punctual

 • Equip pupils with appropriate school materials, a sufficient healthy lunch and full uniform Be courteous towards pupils and staff

• Make an appointment to meet with a teacher/the Principal through the office • Respect school property and encourage their children to do the same

• Ensure that your child has a positive attitude to and abides by the school rules • Never undermine the authority of the school or the teachers

 • Promote respect for the teachers and other school personnel

• Give the school a contact number at which you may be contacted in case of an emergency

• Be available to discuss a problem- class teacher and principal to be seen by making an appointment • Support the school in implementing its code of behaviour

• Exert firm discipline in cases where your child’s behaviour is having a negative impact on others

 • Be aware that the school day is from 9.20 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. and that no responsibility is accepted by the board for pupil arriving before 9.10 a.m. or remaining after 3.00 p.m. unless authorised to do so by the school

• Inform the school if your child is suffering from any illness or is taking medication which may affect his/her well being or performance in school

• Be aware that pupils who are missing for 20 days or more will be notified to the national educational welfare board as is legally required • Label pupil’s coats and other personal property

 • As the Board of Management is responsible for the Health & Safety of all staff and students, parents are requested not to approach or reprimand another person’s child on the school premises.

**Procedures:**

• The degree of the misdemeanour/misbehaviour will be judged by the teachers and/Principal based on a commonsense approach with regard to the gravity and frequency of the behaviour.

 • All members of the Teaching Staff and the Board of Management have been involved in planning this code.

• A copy of this Code will be given to all families.

 • This Code of Behaviour will be reviewed every 2 years.

Parents please be aware that by enrolling your children in Ballycurrane N.S., you are accepting this Code of Behaviour.

This policy was reviewed by the Board of Management on

Signed:

Chairperson of Board of Management.