



Code Of Behaviour

1 . AIMS

- 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 development self-discipline, feel secure and make progress in all aspects of their development.
- Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school.
- We encourage parents to be pro active in the implantation of this code by communicating regularly with the school staff about the welfare and needs of their child/children.

2 . PRINCIPALS

- The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to tolerate these differences.
- 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 and respect amongst the staff, parents and pupils.
- Every effort will be made to ensure that the code of behaviour is implemented in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner.

3 . SCHOOL RULES

For my own safety and that of the others:

- I should be careful coming to and going from the building.
- I should always walk while in the school building.
- I should remain seated at all times in class and while eating lunch.
- I should always show respect for my fellow pupils, visitors and school staff.
- I should bring a note of explanation following absences.
- I should never leave the school grounds without the permission of the principal and/or teacher.



- I am expected to go out doors during break times unless my parents/guardians have indicated in a written request that for health reasons I must stay indoors.

4 . CARING FOR MYSELF

- I must not play football in the yard before or after school.
- I must enter and exit the school grounds through the schools gates, I must not climb walls, trees or cycle in the school grounds.
- I should respect myself and my property, always keeping my school bag, books and copies in good order.
- I should never allow others to bully me and if it happens I should tell my parents, my teacher and /or any member of school staff.
- I should always be in school before the bell rings at 9.10am.
- I should show respect for my school and be proud to wear the complete school uniform every day.
- I should always bring a sensible, nutritional lunch to school. Crisp, minerals, sweets, chocolate bars or chewing gum are not permitted.
- Popcorn or breakfast cereal must be kept in a sealed container (e.g.) a lunch box, not plastic bags.
- I should always do my best in school by listening carefully, working as hard as I can and by completing my homework.
- Mobile Phones: I will not bring my mobile phone to school. If it is needed after school, I will bring a note from my parents/guardian and give it to my teacher for the school day.

5 . CARING FOR OTHERS

- I should be kind and respectful to teachers, ancillary staff and fellow pupils by being mannerly and polite, by taking turns and remaining silent and orderly in my class line. Similar behaviour is expected on school tours and outings.
- I should behave well in class so that my fellow pupils and I can learn.
- No persistent disruptive talking in class.
- I should always keep my school clean by bringing unfinished food, (e.g.) sandwiches and drinks home and by putting fruit and empty yogurt cartons, wrappers etc. in the litter and recycling bins provided.



- I should show respect for the property of my fellow pupils, the school building and grounds.
- I should be truthful and honest at all times.
- I should never bully others. I should never allow others to bully me and if it happens I should tell my parents and my teacher.
- Bullying, bad language, fighting is always unacceptable.
- I should use the litter and recycling bins as provided in the classrooms and schoolyard at all times.

6 . CLÁR AMA NA SCOILE

- School Begins: 9.10m
- School Closes: 1.50pm (Infants)
2.50pm (Other Classes)

7 . 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 sign his/her homework journal each night (ensuring that the homework is done) – from children 1st – 6th classes. In case of Infants, please sign his/her copy. This is an important means of ongoing communication (two way) between school and home.

8 . STRATEGIES AND PROCEDURES (In relation to good and inappropriate behaviour)

Good Behaviour, 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 system of merit marks.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- A mention to parent, written or verbal communication.



Disapproval of unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with as follows: (the nature of the behaviour will determine the strategy)

- Reasoning with pupils.
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
- Teacher keeps record in class book/yard book.
- Prescribing extra work or write out lines or write copy of school rules.
- Communication with parents – note or phone call.
- Temporary separation from peers and/or loss of privileges.
- Temporary removal from classroom to another classroom.
- Referral to Deputy Principal/ Principal.
- Parents called to meet with class teacher.
- Parents and child meet with Chairperson of Board and Principal.
- Temporary removal from school – parents/guardians notified by phone call on day of incident occurring, temporary removal will be made on the following day if parent cannot be contacted on day of incident.
- Parents/guardians formally informed by letter from the Board of Management.
- Temporary Suspension authorised by Board of Management.
- Expulsion (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by Circular 7/88.)

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.
- Placing unfinished food/drink cartoons in class bin.
- Leaving litter around school.
- Not wearing correct uniform.
- Not completing homework without good reason.
- Not having homework signed by a parent or guardian.

Examples of serious misdemeanours:

- Constant disruption in class.
- Disobedience, insubordination by demeanour, telling lies, stealing, damaging school. Teacher, staff or other pupils property.
- Back answering a teacher or staff member.
- Being discourteous or unmannerly.
- Frequenting school premises after school hours without appropriate permission.
- Deliberately using unacceptable language.
- Bringing weapons to school.
- Deliberately injuring a fellow pupil.
- Endangering self and fellow pupils in the school.
- Repeatedly name calling, mocking and sniggering at others.
- Physical aggression, pushing, punching, kicking, hair pulling, spitting.
- Bullying.

Examples of gross misdemeanours:

- Deliberately leaving taps on.
- Fire hose turned on.



- Deliberate aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher, staff member or pupil.
- Setting fire to school property.
- Vandalising school property.

Procedures for noting and reporting incidents:

- All reports of bullying will be noted in class book/yard book, investigated and dealt with by the teacher so that pupils will gain confidence in telling. A written note will be kept of all reported incidences of bullying.
- Serious cases will be referred immediately to the Deputy. Principal / Principal earlier rather than later.
- Parents/guardians will be informed by the appropriate teacher regarding bullying incidence.
- Pupils must understand that reporting is not "telling tales"
- Non teaching staff will be encouraged to report incidents. Discretion is important.

9 . SCHOOL POLICY ON BULLYING

Ballyhass National School
is a
BULLY FREE
Zone

Bullying is repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical conducted by an individual or a group against others.

General school policy, (e.g.) "Say No", Move Away – Tell an Adult



Bullying – Signs to look out for:

- Anxiety about travelling to and from school.
- Unwillingness to go to school.
- Deterioration in educational performance.
- Pattern of physical illness.
- Unexplained changes in either mood or behaviour.
- Possessions missing.
- Increased requests for money.
- Reluctant and/or refusal to say what is troubling him/her.

Procedures for investigating and dealing with bullying:

- Calm, unemotional problem – solving.
- Incidents best investigated outside the classroom situation.
- Teacher will speak separately to the pupils involved.
- Answers will be sought to questions of What, Where, When, Who and Why.
- Meet with parents/guardians of parties involved.

Programme for work with pupils:

Learning strategies will allow for the enhancement of each pupil's self-worth. Cf. Stay Safe Lessons. Walk Tall, N.W.H.B., Prim Ed. Health, R.S.E. Bí Folláin. Bullying/Complaints Procedure.

*'Our thoughts create our attitude
Our attitudes become our behaviour,
Our behaviour is how we treat others,
How we treat others is what we think of ourselves'*