

St. Joseph's National School, Rathwire

Code of Discipline

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 happy, 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 tolerate 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.

Pupils should adhere to the following school rules.

School Rules:

Safety: for my own safety and that of others-

- (a) I should be careful coming to and going from school.
- (b) I should always walk while in the school building.
- (c) I should remain seated at all times in class and while eating lunch.
- (d) I should bring a note of explanation to explain absences or late arrival.
- (e) I should never leave the school grounds without permission of the Principal/Deputy Principal/a teacher on yard duty.

Caring for myself:

- (a) I should respect myself and my property, always keeping my schoolbag, books and copies in good order.

Clár ama na Scoile

- (a) Assembly: 9.25am (in the yard)
- (b) School Begins 9.30am
- (c) School Closes 2.10pm (Junior & Senior Infants) 3.10pm (1st to 6th class)
- (d) I should always show respect for my school and be proud to wear the **complete** school uniform every day.
- (e) I should always be aware of my personal cleanliness.
- (f) I should always bring a sensible, nutritional lunch to school. **Crisps, minerals, sweets or chewing gum are not permitted.**
- (g) I should always do my best in school by listening carefully, working as hard as I can and by completing my homework.

Caring for others:

- (a) I should be kind and respectful to all staff and fellow pupils by being mannerly and polite at all times.
- (b) I should behave well in class so that my fellow pupils and I can learn.
- (c) I should always keep my school clean by bringing unfinished food and drinks home.
- (d) I should show respect for the property of my fellow pupils, the school building and grounds.
- (e) I should be truthful and honest at all times.

Bullying:

I should never bully others. I should never allow others to bully me or anyone else and if it happens I should tell my parents and my teacher. Bullying is always unacceptable.

Positive Strategies to Improve Behaviour

- (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 star beside child's name.
 - A word of praise in front of a group or class.
 - A system of group merit points.
 - Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
 - A mention to parent, written or verbal communication.
 - Student of the week.
 - Line of the month

(b) Disapproval of unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with as follows:

A. In School

- **Step 1.** Oral Warning
- **Step 2.** Name in teachers planning diary.
- **Step 3.** Consequence Sheet to be filled in and sent home to parent where it **MUST** be read and signed by parent or guardian. If unsigned or left at home, this pupil must be sent to the Principal whereupon the parents will be called by telephone. These steps are for each day. Every day each pupil starts at zero.
- **Step 4.** If a second consequence sheet is issued to the same pupil within a three week period he will receive a letter notifying parents/guardians of continuing misbehaviour. This letter must be signed and returned to the school immediately. The principal will then note the name in the discipline book.
- **Step 5.** After three consequence sheets the pupil will be sent to the principal's office where Consequence Sheet to be filled in and sent home to parent/guardian where it **MUST** be read and signed by parent or guardian (if unsigned or left at home this pupil must be sent to the principal's office whereupon the parents may be called by telephone). These steps are for each day. Everyday each pupil starts at zero.
- **Step 6.** After the fourth consequence sheet is issued the pupil's name will be written in the Discipline Book. If the name appears twice (following the 4th consequence sheet) in the Discipline Book then the parents/guardians are called in to meet the principal. One week later the parents will be invited to return to the school and speak to the class teacher in order to monitor the child's behaviour.
- **Step 7.** Suspension/expulsion (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National School's as amended by circular 7/88) may be enforced.

THE PRINCIPAL WILL DEAL WITH OTHER MAJOR INCIDENTS OF GROSS MISBEHAVIOUR AND MISCONDUCT AT HIS OWN DISCRETION WHERE ALL STEPS ABOVE NEED TO BE BYPASSED IMMEDIATELY.

B. In Yard:

- **Step 1.** One Tick.....1st Offence
Two Ticks.....2nd Offence
Three Ticks.....Consequence Sheet
- **Step2.** 2nd consequence sheet.
- **Step3.** 3rd consequence sheet. Parents to be called in and they must collect their child at lunch time for one week and return the child at 1.00pm
- **Step4.** 4th consequence sheet. The parents again to be called in and they must collect their child at lunch time for one month and returned at 1.00pm.
- **Step5.**5th consequence sheet. The parents again to be called in and they must collect their child at lunch time for the remainder of the school year.

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 / Running in school building / Leaving seat without permission at lunchtime / Leaving litter around school / Being discourteous / unmannerly / Not completing homework without good reason / Chewing gum / Incomplete school uniform.

Examples if serious misdemeanours:

Endangering self/fellow pupils in the school playground or classroom / Constantly disruptive in class / Telling lies / Stealing / Damaging other pupil's property / Bullying / Back answering a teacher / Frequenting school premises after school hours without appropriate permission / Leaving school premises during school day without appropriate permission /Deliberately injuring a fellow pupil / Kicking / Spitting.

Steps to be taken for minor and serious misdemeanours

The discipline for Learning Procedure as outlined above for both in school and in schoolyard.

Examples of Gross Misdemeanours

Setting fire to school property / deliberately leaving taps/fire hose turned on /Setting off fire alarm / Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a staff member/pupil, smoking, bringing drugs to school.

Examples of steps which may be taken when dealing with gross misdemeanours

1. Chairperson/Principal may sanction immediate suspension pending discussion with parents.
2. Expulsion will be considered in an extreme case in accordance with Rule 130 (6) i.e. "No pupil can be struck off the rolls or breaches of discipline without prior consent of patron and until alternative arrangements are made for enrolment of pupil at another suitable school in the locality".

GROSS MISBEHAVIOURS will be dealt with outside of the Discipline for Learning (DFL) System.

YARD CODE OF DISCIPLINE

One Tick	1 st Offence
Two Ticks	2 nd Offence – Time Frame 1 Week
Three Ticks	Consequence Sheet
	2 nd Consequence Sheet – Detention at Lunch Time
	3 rd Consequence Sheet – Parents called. Must collect child for one week at 1pm
	4 th Consequence Sheet – Parents called. Must collect child for one week at 1pm
	5 th Consequence Sheet – Parents called. Must collect child for rest of year at 1pm

It should be noted that these lists consist of examples only: It is not meant to be a totally comprehensive list of misdemeanours & procedural steps and will be subjected to ongoing review.

St. Joseph's National School

Consequence Sheet

Name of Student: _____

Date: _____

Step 1 _____

Step 2 _____

Step 3 _____

Today at school _____ misbehaved in the following way/s

The resulting consequences are:

Signed by Teacher _____

Signed by
Parents/Guardians _____