



Reenascreena N.S.

Reenascreena, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork. P85 XE17

Roll Number: 17765E

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Code of Behaviour

Aims:

- To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community
- To foster a learning environment where individuality is celebrated and accommodated, while ensuring the right of every child to an education in a safe environment which is free of disruption
- To create an atmosphere of respect towards and tolerance of others
- To promote positive behaviour and self-discipline
- To ensure that our system of rules, rewards and sanctions are implemented in a fair and consistent manner

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.

Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school, with the emphasis on promotion of positive reinforcement and “catching children being good”.

Principles:

- The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to tolerate these differences whilst maintaining at all times a safe, secure environment for all members of our school community.
- 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.
- Every effort will be made to ensure that the code of discipline is implemented in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner.

School Rules

Safety: For my own safety and that of others;

- I should be careful coming to and going from school
- I should always walk while in the school building
- I should remain seated at all times in class and while eating lunch
- In the yard, regardless of what game I am playing, I will always show respect for my fellow pupils
- I should never leave the school grounds without the permission of the Principal

Caring for myself:

- I should respect myself and my property, always keeping my school bag, books, copies and box in good order
- I should always be in school before the day starts at 9:15am
- I should show respect for my school and be proud to wear the complete school uniform every day
- I should always be aware of my personal cleanliness
- I should always bring a sensible, nutritional lunch to school. Crisps, minerals, sweets, chocolate or chewing gum are not permitted
- 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:

- I should be kind and respectful to school staff and fellow pupils by being mannerly and polite, by taking turns and by remaining quiet and orderly in my class line
- I should behave well in class so that my fellow pupils and I can learn
- I should always keep my classroom clean by bringing unfinished food and drinks, cartons, wrappers etc home. 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

Bullying:

- 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 is always unacceptable.

Reenascreena NS is a 'bully-free' zone

Clár ama na Scoile:

- Assembly: 9:05a.m
- School begins: 9:15a.m.
- School finishes: Junior and Senior Infants 1:55p.m.
1st – 6th classes 2:55p.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 sign their homework journal each night (ensuring that it is done). If an issue arises e.g. something is not understood or is taking excessively long, please contact the class teacher immediately.

Strategies:

1. 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 book, copy or homework journal or communication by email or phone call
- 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 e.g. Class Dojo
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege
- A mention to parent, written, verbal or electronic communication

2. Disapproval of unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with as follows;

(The nature of the behaviour will determine the strategy)

- Reasoning with pupils
- Restorative practices with 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
- Record kept for future reference and to determine an overall picture of behaviour

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;

1. Examples of minor misdemeanours:

- Interrupting class work
- Arriving late for school on a regular basis
- Being discourteous or unmannerly
- Not completing homework without good reason on a regular basis
- Endangering self/fellow pupils or engaging in rough play in the school yard at break time
- Use of mobile phones, smart watches or any other prohibited electronic device

1.1. Examples of steps to be taken by teachers when dealing with minor misdemeanours:

- Verbal reprimand/reasoning with the pupil
- Noting instance of yard misbehaviour in pupil's records

1.2. Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with regular occurrences of minor misdemeanours

Phase 1 (within the classroom):

- Write an account of what happened which must be signed by parent
- Note in homework journal to be signed by parent or communication by email or phone call
- Temporary separation from peers
- Sending to another teacher and / or denial of participation in some class activity
- Warning to pupils who engages in misbehaviours more than three times in a 2 week period
- Note to parents concerning further misbehaviour in yard (misbehaviour in yard consists of any action that puts the safety of self and / or another pupil at risk)

Phase 2:

- Send to the Principal
- Class teacher meets one or both parents
- Principal and / or Deputy Principal meets with one or both parents concerning yard behaviour

2. Examples of serious misdemeanours:

- Constantly disruptive in class
- Telling lies on a regular basis
- Stealing
- Damaging other pupil's property
- Any type of bullying behaviour
- Back answering a teacher, whether they are a permanent member of staff or a substitute covering an absence
- Frequenting school premises after school hours without appropriate permission
- Leaving school premises during school day without appropriate permission
- Using unacceptable language
- Bringing weapons to school
- Deliberately injuring a fellow pupil

2.1 Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with serious misdemeanours;

- Send to the Principal
- Principal sends a note in the homework journal to be signed by parent or communication by email or phone call
- Principal meets with one/both parents

- Chairperson of Board of Management is informed and parents requested to meet with the Chairperson and Principal

2.2 Examples of Gross Misdemeanours

- Setting fire to school property
- Deliberately leaving taps or fire hose turned on
- Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a member of staff and / or a fellow pupil

2.3 Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with gross misdemeanours;

- Teachers report all serious misbehaviour to the principal and a record of all such behaviour is retained. Parents will be made aware of **serious misbehaviour**.
- Before resorting to serious sanctions, such as suspension, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Parents will be involved at an early stage rather than as a last resort. Communication with parents can be verbal or written, depending on the circumstances.
- The parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case. Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents will be requested in writing to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson and the Principal. If the parents do not give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future the pupil may have to be suspended for a period. Suspension will be in accordance with Rule 130(5) of the Rules for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000.
- In the case of gross misbehaviour, where it is necessary to ensure that order and discipline are maintained and to secure the safety of pupils, the Board authorises the principal to sanction an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding three school days, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents.
- Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with Rule 130(6) and the Education Welfare Act 2000. Before suspending or expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Local Education Welfare Officer in writing, in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act. A copy of Circular 20/90 and Rule 130 along with the NEWB Guidelines Developing a Code of Behaviour are available for inspection at the school. The Chairperson or Principal will sanction immediate suspension pending discussion with parents.
- Expulsion will be considered in an extreme case in accordance with Rule 130 (6) *“No pupil can be struck off the rolls for 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”*.

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

School Policy on Bullying:

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

Indications of Bullying / Behaviour:

- Anxiety about travelling to and / or from school
- Unwillingness to go to school
- Deterioration in educational performance
- Pattern of physical illnesses
- Unexplained changes in either mood or behaviour
- Visible signs of anxiety or distress
- Possessions missing
- Increased requests for money
- Unexplained bruising
- Reluctance and / or refusal to say what is troubling him/her

Procedures for noting and reporting incidents:

- All reports of bullying should be noted, investigated and dealt with by the class teacher so that pupils will gain confidence in telling
- Serious cases should be referred immediately to the class teacher and / or the Principal
- Parents should be informed by the Deputy Principal / Principal sooner rather than later
- Parents must be informed of the appropriate person to whom they can make their enquiries regarding bullying
- Pupils must understand that reporting is not 'telling tales'
- Individual teachers should record and take appropriate measures in accordance with policy
- Non-teaching staff should be encouraged to report incidents. Discretion is of the utmost importance

Procedures for investigating and dealing with bullying:

- Calm, unemotional problem-solving approach with a view to learning from experience
- Incidents are always best investigated outside the classroom situation
- The Class Teacher should speak separately to the pupils involved
- Answers should be sought to questions of What, Where, When, Who and Why to establish a clear chain of events. The teacher should repeat their understanding of what has been said to ensure the pupil has explained themselves fully
- Members of a gang should be met individually and as a group
- Meet parents of parties involved

Programme for work with pupils:

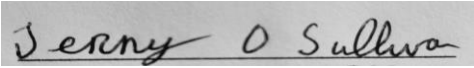
Learning strategies should allow for the enhancement of each pupil's self-worth – e.g. through Stay Safe lessons and engagement with Wellbeing lessons and activities.


Monitoring / Evaluation / Review:

This policy will be implemented during the school year 2022-2023.

It will be made available to school personnel, published on the school website and will be readily accessible to parents and pupils on request. A copy of this policy will also be made available to the Department and the Patron if requested.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year or in light of experience.

Signed: 
(Chairperson, Board of Management)

Signed: 
(Principal)

Date: 17/4/2023

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