



Sessiaghoneill National School

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Code of Behaviour Policy - 2018/2019

The **aims** of the Code of Behaviour for Sessiaghoneill School are:

- To provide guidance for pupils, teachers and parents on behaviour expectations.
- To provide for the effective and safe operation of the school.
- To develop pupils' self-esteem and to promote positive behaviour.
- To foster the development of a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in pupils based on respect, consideration and tolerance of others.
- To facilitate the education and development of each child.
- To foster caring attitudes to one another and to the environment.
- To enable teachers to teach without disruption.

Implementation

Every member of the school community has a role to play in the implementation of the Code of Behaviour. Rules will be kept to a minimum, will emphasise positive behaviour and will be applied in a fair and consistent manner, with due regard to the age of the pupils and individual differences. Good behaviour will be encouraged and rewarded. Where difficulties arise parents will be contacted at an early stage.

General Guidelines for Positive Behaviour

1. Pupils are expected to treat all adults and fellow pupils with respect and courtesy at all times. Behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to feel safe is unacceptable.
2. Pupils are expected to show respect for all school property and to keep the school environment clean and litter free.
3. Pupils are expected to take pride in their appearance, to wear full uniform at all times, to have all books and required materials and to be in the right place at the right time.

4. Pupils are expected to obey a teacher's instructions, to work to the best of their ability and to present assignments neatly.
5. Pupils are expected to attend every day unless there is a genuine reason for the absence, in which case the school must be informed in writing. (See Attendance Policy)
6. Pupils must understand that all staff members are in authority and must be obeyed at all times.
7. Pupils must walk quietly in the school building. Pupils must remain in their class lines while entering and exiting the building. (Health and Safety Policy).

This can be summed up as 6 main Rules

I will listen - I will not interrupt.

I will work hard - I will not waste time.

I will be kind - I will not hurt people's feelings.

I will respect property - I will not waste or damage things.

I will be honest - I will not hide the truth

I will be gentle - I will not hurt anyone.

These rules are displayed in the entrance area of the school.

Class Rules

At the beginning of each academic year, the class teacher will draft a list of class rules with the children. These reflect and support the school rules, but are presented in a way that is accessible to the children. Class rules should be kept to a minimum and are devised with regard for the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community.

These include

- Not leaving the classroom without permission.
- Not leaving the seat without permission.
- Not shouting out in class.
- Always ensuring that passageways are kept clear and bags are stored under seats.

This list may be added to as required by individual class teachers. Class Rules are displayed in each classroom and pupils are reminded of them regularly.

School Related Activities

School Rules and Class Rules contained in the Code of Behaviour apply in any situation where pupils are still the responsibility of the school. For example; school tours, games, visits to museums or other schools etc.

Playground - Positive Strategies

A number of positive strategies are implemented by the staff to promote good behaviour, to prevent behavioural difficulties and to deal with incidences of unacceptable behaviour.

- A set of playground rules is communicated to staff and pupils e.g. pupils line up in class lines and are escorted to and from the playground by the class teachers.
- The playground is divided into different zones providing sections for different age groups and activities.
- Activities are organised in ways that will minimise misbehaviour e.g. football leagues, handball training etc.
- Younger children are encouraged to take part in playground games.
- A number of activities have been painted on the tarmac e.g. hopscotch etc.
- Three teachers and three SNA supervise the yard. This is done on a rota basis and all children are visible at all times to the supervising staff.
- During break-times all pupils must ask permission from a supervising teacher/SNA to re- enter the school.
- On wet days the children remain in their classrooms and games (board games, jigsaws, construction sets) are available in each classroom.
- Pupils who remain inside due to illness must stay in the designated area and are supervised by the teachers on yard duty.

The following sanctions are implemented for incidents of misbehaviour in the playground.

- Time out 5/10/15 minutes depending on the severity of the incident.
- Reporting to the class teacher
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Recorded in the Incident Book.

Bullying

Bullying is repeated verbal, psychological or physical aggression by an individual or group against others. The most common forms of bullying are aggressive physical contact, name-calling, intimidation, extortion, isolation and taunting. Bullying will not be tolerated and parents are expected to cooperate with the school at all times in dealing with instances of bullying in accordance with the school's Anti- Bullying Policy.

Affirming Positive Behaviour

Positive reinforcement of good behaviour leads to better self- discipline and we place greater emphasis on rewards and incentives than on sanctions.

Strategies/ Incentives

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment on a child's exercise book.
- A visit to another class/Principal for commendation.
- Praise in front of class group/assembly.
- Individual class merit awards, points awards or award stamps.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- Verbal or written communication with parent.

Discouraging Misbehaviour

The purpose of sanctions and other strategies is to promote positive behaviour and discourage misbehaviour. Sanctions will be applied according to the gravity of the misbehaviour, with due regard to the age and cognitive development of the child. The use of sanctions should be characterised by certain features:

- It must be clear why a sanction is being applied
- The consequence must relate as closely as possible to the behaviour.
- It must be made clear what changes in behaviour are required to avoid future sanctions.
- Group punishment should be avoided
- There should be a clear distinction between minor and major offences.
- It should be the behaviour rather than the person that is the focus.

The following steps will be taken when children behave inappropriately. They are listed in order of severity.

- Reasoning with the pupil.
- Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve.
- Temporary separation from peers within class and/or temporary removal to another class.
- Prescribing extra work.

- Loss of privileges.
- Detention during break.
- Communication with parents.
- Referral to Principal.
- Principal communicating with parents.
- Exclusion (Suspension/Expulsion) from school in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular and Education Welfare Act 2000.

Pupils will not be deprived of engagement in a Curricular Area except on the grounds of health and safety.

Therefore a child, who does not do his work in class or has not completed his homework, may be detained at break time to finish the work.

Detention at break time does not require prior notice to parents.

Suspension/Expulsion

Before serious sanctions such as suspension or expulsion are used, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Communication with parents may be verbal or written. The decision to suspend a pupil will take the following into consideration

- The child's behaviour has had a seriously detrimental effect on the education of other students
- The child's continued presence in the school at this time constitutes a threat to safety
- The child is responsible for serious damage to property

For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension may be considered. Parents concerned will be invited to the school to discuss their child's case. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour against a teacher or pupil will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour.

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 be suspended for a period.

Appendix 1

Prior to suspension, where possible, the Principal may review the case in consultation with teachers and other members of the school community involved. Due regard will be given to records of previous misbehaviours, their pattern and context, sanctions and other interventions used, their outcomes and any

relevant medical information. Suspension will be in accordance with 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 the pupils the BOM may authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding three days, pending a discussion of the matter with parents. Appendix 1

Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with the Rules for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000. Before suspending or expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Local Welfare Education Officer in writing in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.

Removal of Suspension (Reinstatement)

Following or during a period of suspension, the parent/s may apply to have the pupil reinstated to the school. The parent/s must give a satisfactory undertaking that a suspended pupil will behave in accordance with the school code and the Principal must be satisfied that the pupil's reinstatement will not constitute a risk to the pupil's own safety or that of the other pupils or staff. The Principal will facilitate the preparation of a behaviour plan for the pupil if required and re-admit the pupil formally to the class.

Children with Special Needs

All children are required to comply with the Code of Behaviour. However the school recognises that children with special needs may require assistance in understanding certain rules. Specialised behaviour plans will be put in place in consultation with parents, class teacher, SEN teacher and/or Principal. Cognitive development will be taken into account at all times. Professional advice from NEPS Psychologists and recommendations in psychological reports will be adhered to.

Before/ After School

Parents are reminded that the school cannot accept responsibility for pupils before official opening time 9.20a.m or after the official closing time of 2.00 p.m. (infants) or 3.00p.m. (all other classes) .

Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Management

- To provide a comfortable safe environment.
- To support the Principal and staff in implementing the code.
- To ratify the code.

Principal

- To promote a positive climate in the school.
- To ensure that the Code of Behaviour is implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
- To arrange for a review of the code as required.

Teachers

- Support and implement the school's code of behaviour.
- Create a safe working environment for each pupil.
- Recognise and affirm good work.
- Prepare school work and correct work done by pupils.
- Recognise and provide for individual talents and differences among pupils.
- Be courteous, consistent and fair.
- Keep opportunities for disruptive behaviour to a minimum.
- Deal appropriately with misbehaviour.
- Keep a record of instances of serious misbehaviour or repeated instances of misbehaviour.
- Provide support for colleagues.
- Communicate with parents when necessary and provide reports on matters of mutual concern.

Pupils

- Attend school regularly and punctually.
- Listen to their teachers and act on instructions/advice.
- Show respect for all members of the school community.
- Respect all school property and the property of other pupils.
- Avoid behaving in any way which would endanger others.
- Avoid all nasty remarks, swearing and name-calling.
- Include other pupils in games and activities.
- Bring correct materials/books to school.
- Follow school and class rules.

Parents/Guardians

- Encourage children to have a sense of respect for themselves and for others and school property.
- Ensure that children attend regularly and punctually.
- Be interested in, support and encourage their children's school work.
- Equip pupils with appropriate school materials, a sufficient healthy lunch and full uniform.
- Label pupils coats and other personal property.
- Be familiar with the Code of Behaviour and support its implementation.
- Co-operate with teachers in instances where their child's behaviour is causing difficulties for others.
- Communicate with the school in relation to any problems which may affect the child's progress or behaviour.
- Strictly supervise pre-school children, when in the school.

Implementation Date

The Code of Behaviour is implemented as of September 2010.

Review

The code will be reviewed in 2018

Ratified by the Board of Management on 23rd January 2013.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairperson of B.O.M.

The policy will be circulated to all parents and members of staff and will be made available to all new applicants on enrolment.



Sessiaghneill National School

To: The parents of

Dear Parent(s),

In accordance with the Code of Behaviour of Sessiaghneill N.S, and with the authority given to me by the Board of Management at its meeting on _____, I wish to inform you that your child is being suspended for the next three days.

The decision to suspend was as a result of his/her repeated failure to obey School Rules, his/her repeated aggressive behaviour, his/her refusal to obey instruction and his/her persistent disregard for all forms of authority within the school. It is expected that you will make arrangements for him/her to continue with his/her school work during the period of suspension.

_____ may return to school on _____.

On his/her return _____ will be asked to give a clear indication of his/her willingness to abide by the School's Code of Behaviour.

I would ask you to note that you have the right to appeal this decision of the Board. Any appeal must be received within 5 calendar days from the date of your receipt of this letter.

It is the right of the Board of Management to take measures it considers appropriate to ensure that good order and discipline are maintained in N.S. at all times.

Yours sincerely,

Anne-Marie Griffin

Principal

(On behalf of the Board of Management)