

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR – THE PUPIL’S CHARTER

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 not interfere with others coming to or going from school;
- (d) I should bring a note of explanation following absences;
- (e) I should never leave the school grounds without the permission of the Principal or Class Teacher;
- (f) I should never bring a mobile phone or electronic device (walkman, gameboy, etc.) to school.

CARING FOR MYSELF:

- (a) I should respect myself and my property, always keeping my school bag, books and copies in good order.
- (b) I should always be in school at 9:20 a.m.
- (c) I should show respect for my school and be proud to wear the complete school uniform every day.
- (d) I should always be aware of my personal cleanliness.
- (e) I should always bring a sensible, nutritional lunch to school. Chewing gum is not permitted.
- (f) 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 teachers and fellow pupils.
- (b) I should behave well in class so that my fellow pupils and I can learn. If I seriously misbehave or repeatedly misbehave, it will be noted by the teacher and my parents will be notified.
- (c) I should always keep my school clean by bringing unfinished food and drinks etc. 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.
- (f) If someone is hurt in the school grounds, report it immediately to the teacher on yard duty.

BEHAVING IN THE YARD:

Misbehaviour in the yard consists of any action that puts the safety of self/other pupils at risk:

- (a) I should enjoy playtime by playing safely in my class area.
- (b) I should never leave the school yard / field without the teacher's permission.
- (c) I know that wrestling, fighting, kicking, teasing and bullying are strictly forbidden.
- (d) I should never use bad language or name call.
- (e) My parents will be notified concerning repeated misbehaviour in the yard.

BULLYING:

“Bullying is repeated verbal, psychological and physical aggression”

I should never bully others. I should never allow others to bully me or any other pupil, and if it happens I should tell my parents and my teacher. Bullying is always unacceptable.

Scoil Mháirtín is a “Bully-Free” zone.

SANCTIONS

The following strategies may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour.

- (a) Reasoning with the pupil;
- (b) Reprimand (including advice on how to improve);
- (c) Temporary separation from peers, friends or others;
- (d) Loss of privileges;
- (e) Supervised detention;
- (f) Prescribing additional work – extra homework;
- (g) Communication with parents (a written note in the pupils homework journal / a phone call);
- (h) Parents called to meet teachers;
- (i) Referral to Principal;
- (j) Exclusion from school (suspension or expulsion in accordance with Rule 130 of Rules for National Schools & Education Welfare Act 2000).

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

Before serious sanctions such as suspension or expulsion are used, 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 may be verbal or by letter depending on the circumstances.

For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, suspension may be considered. Parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards 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.

Prior to suspension, where possible, the Principal may review the case in consultation with teachers and other members of the school community involved, with due regard to records of previous misbehaviours, their pattern and context, sanctions and other interventions used and their outcomes and any relevant medical information. Suspension will be in accordance with Rule 130(5) of the Rules for National and the Education Welfare Act 2000(see Appendix 3).

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 Board may authorise the Chairperson or 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 the Rule 130(6) in the Rules for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000. The Board shall notify the Education Welfare Board of any suspension/expulsion in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.

SCHOOL RULES

We expect children to conform to general standards of behaviour and work, and we look for the support of parents in attaining these standards. Our school rules are simple and are designed largely to protect persons or property.

- Children are required to attend school regularly and to be punctual. If a child is absent, a note from parent to Principal or class teacher is expected.
- Bullying will not be tolerated.
- Children are expected to be polite and respectful to all staff and visitors.
- School uniform/tracksuit must be worn at all times.
- All clothing should be marked clearly.
- Parents should regularly check homework and ensure their children have a proper night's sleep.
- Chewing gum is not allowed in school.
- In the interest of safety, we would ask that children would not wear any jewellery to school as there is a potential of injury to themselves or others (watches are excluded).
- Children are requested to use plastic containers for their lunch-time drink/milk.
- Children are not allowed to leave the school premises without permission.
- Mobile phones, gameboys / electronic games are not allowed in school.
- Conventional hair styles only are allowed (no hair colouring).
- Make-Up is not allowed.

NOTE: Management may add to or modify these rules if necessary.