

Seoil Naisiunta Ros Fhiannghlaise



Code of Positive Behaviour and Discipline

In formulating and reviewing the Code of Positive Behaviour for Rosenallis National School the following are noted:

- 1) That the statutory obligation of Section 23 of Education (Welfare) Act 2000 which obliges recognised schools to prepare for the information of students and their parents a code of behaviour of students and the school is conformed to:
- 2) That this school is justifiably proud of the excellent record of good behaviour amongst pupils. This record has been achieved through our enlightened system of encouraging the best in our pupils.
- 3) That Parents/ Guardians, Teachers, the School Principal and the Board of Management work together to do their best for every child.
- 4) That the Board of Management has ultimate responsibility for discipline in the school and must ensure that the fair Code of Good Behaviour and Discipline is applied.
- 5) That the Code of Good Behaviour and Discipline has been formulated by the Principal, Teaching Staff, Parent's Association, and Parents/ Guardians in full consultation with the Board of Management (Per Circular 7/88) and is regularly reviewed. The Board of Management has ratified the review of this code.
- 6) That in devising the Code, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of this school.

The aim is to ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated acknowledging the equal right of each to education in a relatively disruption-free environment. In order to fulfil this right differences will be respected and valued in our school.

- Every child has the right to be loved and cherished. It is only when the children know that they are valued and special that the best results can be achieved.
- Parents/ Guardians play a crucial role in shaping the attitudes that produce good behaviour in school.
- The school places greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions, as we believe that in the long run, this will give the best results.
- The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and will endeavour to accommodate these differences.

- The code will be administered in a consistent and fair manner to all pupils in our school fair procedures, essentially the right to be heard and the right to impartiality, and due process will apply to
 - The investigation of alleged misbehaviour may lead to suspension or expulsion.
 - The process of decision making as to a) whether the student did engage in the misbehaviour and b) what sanction to impose.
- Parents/Guardians will be informed of occasions of good behaviour or improvement in behaviour. They will be advised early on of any misbehaviour, in order that the child's needs can be met before any problems become more serious.
- All permanent, temporary, visiting teachers or teachers on teaching practice and SNA's share a common duty in the execution of the School Code of Positive Behaviour and Discipline at Rosenallis N.S. and shall consider themselves responsible at all times for the behaviour of the children within sight and sound of them.

Positive Reinforcement of Good Behaviour

1. Children are led through various exercises, which are intended to enhance their sense of dignity and goodness. All adults in the school will model good behaviour. The children are continually taught to have consideration for others. The religion programmes / SPSE programmes are an essential source of reference in this process and good behaviour will form part of these lesson plans. Opportunities to implement these exercises are taken throughout the children's curriculum.
2. Teachers shall keep a file on students documenting their good behaviour, misbehaviour and improvements in behaviour. This file will be passed on from year to year.
3. This school places greater emphasis on rewards/positive affirmation than on sanctions in the belief that this will in the long run give the best results.
 - a) **Assembly**: Every month (approx.) there is an assembly at which the children are encouraged in their efforts to behave well. Other achievements whether inside or outside school are also celebrated.
 - b) **Trying my best this month**: A child from each class is picked. This is a non-academic prize and is based on effort made. Each child receives a small prize and is photographed. These photographs are displayed.
 - c) **Awards**: There are awards given in the form of prizes by the class teacher for noteworthy improvements of achievements.
4. **Attendance**: Each child is encouraged to attend school every day. If a child is absent the school must be notified by note in our school journal of the reason for the absence in the interest of health and safety. Term attendee prizes are given as an incentive for full attendance.

School Rules.

1. We must report for school at 9:20am each morning in full uniform with homework completed.
2. We will show respect and good manners to all school staff and to each other.
3. Aggressive behaviour, foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.
4. We will walk quietly and in an orderly fashion around and through the school.
5. We will treat all school property and the property of others with respect.
6. No jewellery is allowed except a watch and stud earrings.
7. Our school lunches should follow the guidelines of the Healthy Eating Policy.
8. Leaving school grounds is forbidden except with teacher permission.
9. Mobile phones are strictly not allowed in school. There is no exception.
10. No child is allowed to have any type of illegal/dangerous substances including cigarettes in their possession.
11. No child should bring to school any item which could be construed as a weapon to inflict harm.
12. All these rules apply when out of school grounds such as representing the school at projects/displays/trips. Outings / football/ hurling/games etc.

These are general rules and are not meant to be exhaustive. We will endeavour to make all parents and all children in our school aware of these rules. In more simple terms the behaviour we would desire is:

- 1) Being respectful, kind and courteous to teachers, fellow students, parents and all others in school.
- 2) Being honest, truthful, polite and mannerly.
- 3) Including others in games/play.
- 4) Accepting others for who they are and making an effort to include them.
- 5) Respecting school property.
- 6) Showing pride in the school environment by helping to keep it neat and tidy.
- 7) Doing homework/school work to the best of your ability.
- 8) Wearing the correct uniform.
- 9) Being nice, caring and friendly towards others.
- 10) Obeying the school rules.

Misbehaviour:

We accept that there is a need for sanctions to register disapproval of unacceptable behaviour. We are using the following categorisation of misbehaviour. These are (1) Minor Misbehaviour, (2) Serious Misbehaviour and (3) Gross Misbehaviour. However as all children are different, these are guidelines and as such will be applied at the discretion of the School Management Team, who will have the best interest of the pupil as their first priority.

1. Minor Misbehaviour

As applied, minor misbehaviour is an action on the part of the pupil, which does not cause harm to the pupil, other pupils staff or property, but which contributes to a disruptive environment in the school. The kind of transgressions contemplated here would include the following:

- Eating in Class
- Interrupting others.
- Homework not done.
- Late for school.
- Wasting time.
- Distracting others.
- Running in corridors.
- Failure to observe the uniform code (including jewellery)
- Petty theft.

The following strategies will be used to deal with such misdemeanours

- Reasoning with pupil.
- Reprimand, and advice on how to improve.
- Temporary separation from classmates or being sent to another classroom.
- Loss of privileges.
- Transcription – The cause and effect of my behaviour in story form.
- Detention during play time.
- Repeated offences noted in the class Discipline File.
- Parents/Guardians informed by note in school journal after repeated entries in the class Discipline File, followed by meeting between parents/guardians, Principal and Class Teacher for discussion.

We believe it is better to inform and involve parents/guardians at an early stage with regard to misbehaviour rather than as a last resort.
See appendix 1 for examples of strategies used.

Serious Misbehaviour

Serious Misbehaviour consists of actions which may cause harm to the pupil, other pupils, staff or property, or is of an ongoing or disrespectful nature so as to disrupt the school environment. The following are some examples of serious misbehaviour.

- Continued occurrence of minor misbehaviour constitutes serious misbehaviour.
- Bullying-This is defined as repeated/continuing aggressions or ill treatment by an individual or a group against another or others. It may be verbal, physical, psychological, emotional, social or other and will be dealt with in accordance with our anti-bullying policy (see enclosed)
- Disrespectful attitude to any school staff.
- Teasing or intimidation.
- Falsely blaming others for transgressions.
- Noisy disruptive behaviour.
- Throwing objects
- Telling lies.
- Truancy
- Stealing
- Deliberate disobedience
- Spitting
- Abusing property
- Bringing lewd material to school
- Kicking, pushing and fighting
- Bad language.
- Racist comments

Progressive sanctions needing to be applied would be as follows:

- Teachers will keep a written record of all instances of serious misbehaviour as well as a record of improvements in the behaviour of disruptive pupils, parents/guardians and Principal will be informed.
- For recurring offences the parents/guardians will meet with the class teacher and the Principal and will be reminded that further recurrences will merit a suspension.
- Suspension may be internal (removed from his class or another room for a specified limited period of school days, with play removed) or external at the Principal's discretion.
- If the parent/guardian do not meet with the class teacher and Principal or 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 temporary period.
- All instances of serious misbehaviour will be recorded in the Principal's Discipline File.

These are general guidelines and are not meant to be exhaustive. In the case of recurring serious misbehaviour, the parents/guardians of the child will meet with the class teacher and the Principal and strategies will be used in agreement with the parents to improve the child's behaviour. These may include:

- Daily and/or weekly written reports.
- Frequent visits by the parents/guardians to the school.
- Personal contracts drawn up between teacher, parents/guardians and child.
- Extra internal support may be provided inside the school.
- Where required the child may be referred to an outside agency for help eg Barnardos, Youth Services, etc.

Gross Misbehaviour

Consistent recurrence of serious misbehaviour constitutes gross misbehaviour. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards staff or fellow pupils is gross misbehaviour. Gross misbehaviour consists of actions, which imply or cause harm to the pupil, other staff or property, or behaviour of an ongoing or blatantly disrespectful nature, which untowardly disrupts the school environment. Examples of gross misbehaviour would be:

- Bullying, as defined by the Department of Educational guidelines ie Repeated aggressions, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against others.
- Threatening behaviour of a serious nature.
- Serious verbal or physical threat or assault on another pupil
- Serious verbal or physical threat or assault on any member of staff.
- Serious theft.
- Malicious damage to school property or to the property of a staff member or pupil.
- Leaving the school, during school time, without permission.
- Having any type of illegal or dangerous substances in their possession including matches, cigarettes, lighters etc.
- Carrying an item that could be construed as a weapon to inflict harm.
- Gross misbehaviour which is regarded as criminal will be reported to the Gardai, following the guidelines laid down by the NEWB
- All instances of gross misbehaviour will be recorded in the Discipline File.

In the case of gross misbehaviour the Board of Management has authorised the Principal where he/she deems it necessary to sanction an immediate suspension of from 1-3 days depending on the severity of the misbehaviour. For the purposes of this code, suspension is defined as requiring the student to absent him/herself from school for a specified, limited period of school days. During the period of suspension, the student retains his/her place in our school. If possible consultation with the Board of Management's Chairperson should take place before the suspension is imposed. The suspension is ratified at the earliest possible opportunity by the full Board of Management. A special meeting of the Board of Management is necessary for any further or longer period of suspension. However, the principal with the approval of the Chairperson of the Board is authorised to impose a suspension of up to 5 days in circumstances where a meeting of the Board cannot be convened in a timely fashion, subject to the guidance concerning such suspension.

A written commitment to co-operate fully with the school to ensure an improvement in the child's future behaviour will be sought from the parents/guardians. At a last resort expulsion will be considered by the Board in accordance with the Education (Welfare Act) 2000 for National Schools and the guidelines developed by the NEWB.

Details of procedures for suspension and expulsion are available from the school secretary on request.

Code of Conduct for Parents

Parents are expected to:

- Ensure their children attend school and are punctual.
- Equip pupils with appropriate school materials, a sufficient healthy lunch and full uniform.
- Be courteous towards pupils and staff.
- Make an appointment to meet with teacher/the Principal through the office.
- Respect school property and encourage their children to do the same.
- Label pupils coats and other personal property.
- Strictly supervise pre-school children, when in the school.

As the Board of Management is responsible for the Health and Safety of all staff and students, parents are requested not to approach or reprimand another person's child on the school premises.

Reviewed and ratified by B.O.M. March 2014

Darren Whelan (Chairperson B.O.M.)

Appendix 1

Transcription – examples attached.

Date: _____
Time: _____
Comment: _____ _____ _____

2) Cool – off – Areas: Located at shapes outside staffroom window, inside directly outside staffroom, at side of school. (All signposted)