

**Bunscoil Clochar Mhuire
St Mary's Primary School**

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

INTRODUCTION

AIM OF PRIMARY EDUCATION

Aims and Philosophy

Teachers, in partnership with parents and the B.O.M., aim to provide a safe, caring, happy, disciplined environment where:

- a) Children's self esteem, self confidence, initiative and creativity can be nurtured.
- b) Each child can be educated without intimidation, ridicule or interruption.
- c) Teachers can conduct their classes without having to constantly correct disruptive or non co-operative pupils.
- d) All members of the school community treat each other with dignity, courtesy and mutual respect.

All partners in the school community Board of Management, teachers, parents and pupils have a role to play in the successful implementation of school code of behaviour.

AIMS OF A CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

1. To create a positive learning environment in which every pupil can benefit from the school.
2. To enable pupils to become more self-disciplined and to encourage good standards of behaviour.
3. To ensure the school can operate smoothly and safely for the benefit of all.
4. To care in a practical way for pupils, staff, the school and its environment.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR BEHAVIOUR

All pupils are expected to behave in a **responsible** manner, both to themselves, and to others by showing **consideration, courtesy and respect** for other pupils and adults at all times.

Respect shall be shown to everyone at all times.

Respect shall be shown for all property at all times.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Our Code of Behaviour relates to all in-school activities, as well as to all activities, during which pupils are representing the school, whilst away from the school campus. The Code of Behaviour focuses on and/or refers to:

- Behaviour in class
- Behaviour in the playground
- Behaviour in the school environment
- Children with Special Educational and/or Behavioural Needs
- Anti-Bullying and Anti-Cyber-bullying
- Leaving the Premises
- School Outings
- Rewards
- Sanctions

CODE OF CLASSROOM BEHAVIOUR

- a) A high level of attentiveness and participation is required of all pupils in class.
- b) A high degree of courtesy (e.g. use of “please”, “thank you”, excuse me”, not interrupting other pupils/teachers, opening and closing doors for adults) is required. Bad language will not be tolerated.
- c) Pupils are expected to stand to welcome and to say “good-bye” to visitors to the room, e.g. priests, nuns, inspectors, teachers, etc.
- d) Giving cheek or contradicting teachers is not allowed.
- e) All pupils shall knock on doors before entering classrooms.
- f) All rooms should be left “litter-free” each evening i.e. papers and other litter should be placed in bins.
- g) Writing/scribbling on desks, chairs or other school property is forbidden and if damage is severe, the item will have to be repaired or replaced by parents or guardians of the pupils concerned.
- h) The removal of school property (crayons, paint brushes etc.) from the school will be considered a serious offence, especially by pupils from first to sixth classes who indulge in such behaviour.
- i) All classrooms shall be vacated by pupils during “breaks”. All classrooms shall also be vacated by pupils at 2.00 p.m. (infants) and 3.00 p.m. (others). Pupils are expected to go to and from their classroom in an orderly manner. They shall enter and leave the classroom by the exit doors in the morning, at break times and in the evenings.
- j) All coats, scarves etc. shall be placed on the coat racks, or in the appropriate section of the classroom.
- k) Children shall have all requisites as specified by the teacher on the book list.
- l) Children shall line up in their classroom and leave in an orderly manner. They should also line up before entering rooms. Running is not allowed at any time in the classrooms, on the corridors, or on the paths.
- m) Mobile phones shall not be used during school hours and shall be turned off on entering the school grounds. If a phone is switched on, it will be confiscated and returned in person to parents/guardians. The use of phones to take photographs is strictly forbidden and will incur penalties up to and including suspension.
- n) Pupils are expected to respect the right of other pupils to learn and to avoid disrupting the work of the classroom.

BEHAVIOUR IN THE PLAYGROUND

- Only games which ensure the safety of all are permitted.
- Skipping ropes for skipping only.
- Pupils are expected to have respect for the person and property of others.
- Pupils are expected to comply with the instructions of teachers and SNAs on yard duty during break times.
- Pupils are only permitted to re-enter the school premises during break with the teacher's permission.
- Pupils are forbidden to climb walls, fences or gates.
- Bad language will not be tolerated in the playground.
- Pupils must not play on the grass verges, during wet weather.
- Wet days: Pupils shall line up and walk to the hall when the "wet bell" goes.
- Pupils must remain in their appropriate designated area in the playground.
- For safety reasons, no ball is permitted in the playground.

BEHAVIOUR IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

- Pupils are expected to move about the school in an orderly manner, and show due respect and courtesy to all staff members e.g. standing to one side to allow adults pass etc.
- No pupil may enter the school before 9.20 a.m. unless authorised by a teacher or unless called in on wet mornings.
- Pupils shall not remain on the school premises after school activities are finished without a teacher's permission.
- Pupils will be suspended for smoking, drinking or substance abuse in school.
- Pupils are encouraged to create and maintain a litter-free environment.
- Pupils are expected to come to and from school with due care for other pupils, for property, for traffic and pedestrians.
- Pupils with bicycles shall walk at all times within the school grounds.
- All other pupils are requested to use the sidewalk nearest the entrance gate.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL and/or BEHAVIOURAL NEEDS

Many children with special needs come to school with behavioural supports already in place. However, the requirements of many other children with special needs may only become evident as they get older. Part of the successful implementation of our Code of Behaviour is ensuring a better understanding, among our school community, of special educational needs, including challenging behaviour and its root causes.

Challenging behaviour can be displayed by any child, even those with special educational needs. Often, while the challenging behaviour can be very obvious, the educational or personal needs that are hidden behind the behaviour may not. Every effort will be made to deal with children with special educational/behavioural needs fairly through the school's Code of Behaviour. Some children may require an individualised approach to dealing with challenging behavior and this approach will be monitored, in consultation with parents, by means of a Behaviour Continuum. Availing of clinical and therapeutic services outside school may need to be considered in some cases.

Class teachers and specialist personnel (such as the Learning Support Teacher, Resource Teacher & Special Needs Assistant) will collaborate to ensure that standards and rules are communicated in a way that pupils with special needs can understand. For some pupils, visual prompts or pictures may be needed. Some pupils may benefit from observing the rules being modelled by peers.

All pupils at St Mary's are subject to the sanctions in the Code of Behaviour. These will be adapted for pupils with special educational/behavioural needs on a case by case basis. Teachers will take particular care to ensure that these sanctions help the pupil with special needs to understand clearly the purpose of the sanction and the reason(s) why their behaviour is unacceptable.

Anti-Bullying (including Anti-Cyber-bullying): Refer to separate policy

APPEARANCES – Safety Issues

Children may not attend school wearing make-up or having their hair dyed. For safety purposes pupils may not wear DROP EARRINGS and may only wear one stud earring per ear lobe. No other jewellery in any other pierced body part is permitted during school hours.

LEAVING PREMISES FOR ANY REASON

For security and safety reasons, pupils are not permitted to leave the school premises, during school hours, unless they are collected by their parents/guardians. Pupils shall only be released during school hours, on presentation to the teacher, of a signed "release slip". Release slips are available from the office or in the homework journal and must be signed by the Principal/Deputy Principal/Acting Principal. Please inform the school, in person or in writing if another person is collecting your child. We regret that we cannot take responsibility for passing on phone messages to children.

SCHOOL OUTINGS

The school has a policy on outings. Children are expected to behave as they would in school.

MAINTAINING GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Rewards

Encouraging high standards of behaviour among pupils, as well as creating and maintaining an orderly atmosphere for learning in the school, will involve the use of praise and rewards for good behaviour. Positive behaviour will be encouraged at all times. This may take the form of stickers, certificates, stars, etc. This will result in sound relationships between teachers and pupils leading to effective teaching and learning.

At the beginning of each school year teachers and pupils will decide on a code of behaviour for their class. This code will have about four or five rules for example:

- Be kind to each other
- Listen to each other
- Share
- Take turns
- Respect school property

Children from First Class to Sixth Class will discuss the code with their parents and both will sign.

SANCTIONS

Maintaining standards of behaviour will involve, in some instances, the application of sanctions to register disapproval of unacceptable behaviour. When sanctions are invoked, pupils should understand that what they have done is unacceptable and that it is the behaviour that is being rejected, not the pupil themselves.

The following procedure and sanctions will be applied to any pupil who persistently shows unacceptable behaviour:

- Reasoning with pupil
- Time out in class or time out in other class
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
- Loss of privileges.
- Prescribing constructive additional written work.
- Teacher communication with Parents/Guardians.
- Referral to Principal

Loss of Privileges in class:

- Loss of playtime
- Loss of video time
- Loss of class jobs, school tours, shows etc.

Loss of Privileges in Yard:

- Loss of part of playtime
- Timeout.

Examples of misbehaviour

Minor:	Jumping the queue Pushing Interrupting Teasing
Serious:	Hurting someone Bullying Wasting class time constantly
Consistent:	Fighting Calling names Answering out of turn
Gross:	Deliberately causing injury Shouting /screaming abuse at others Causing wilful damage to school or personal property of others

Yellow and Red Cards are issued at the discretion of the Teacher or the Principal, for serious or persistent instances of misbehaviour.

Green Cards: are issued to pupils when behaviour improves significantly over a certain period of time following the issuing of a yellow or red card (at the discretion of teacher or Principal)

Yellow Cards: are to be returned signed the next day. After three yellow cards, the next one is **red**.

Red Cards: Are issued for serious breaches of code of behaviour or continuous breaches. They are also to be signed and returned. They require that a parent's appointment be made to discuss the matter with the Principal. It may also mean suspension or internal suspension – pupils go to another classroom for the suspension period.

Suspension: For serious misbehaviour or continuous misbehaviour pupils may be suspended by the Principal for a maximum of three days. Internal or external suspension will be at the discretion of the principal. This period may be extended, at the discretion of the Board of Management.

Suspension may occur when:

- The pupils behaviour has had a seriously detrimental effect on the education of other students.
- The pupils continued presence in the school at this time constitutes a threat to safety.
- The pupil is responsible for serious damage to property.
- A single incident of serious misconduct may be grounds for suspension.

Expulsion: A pupil may be expelled from school on the authority of the Board of Management.

Any Behaviour involving criminal offences - Gardaí will be automatically involved.
Any Behaviour involving Child Protection will be reported to relevant authorities.

Bunscoil Clochar Mhuire



Code of Behaviour

AGREEMENT

I understand fully the School Code of Behaviour and agree that

Child's Name _____ Room

will abide by it.

Signed: _____ **Parent/Guardian**

Signed: _____ **Parent/Guardian**

Date: _____.

Please sign and return to the school at your earliest convenience

