

Scoil Mhuire Maigh Cuilinn

Moycullen Central School



Cód Smachta

Code of Behaviour and Discipline

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Introduction

As a staff, we are committed to the creation of a warm and friendly atmosphere in the school where there is a sense of good order and an atmosphere conducive to learning. Our aim is to create a secure environment to ensure everyone's wellbeing and safety and to maintain a happy, harmonious, working school.

Without discipline society would disintegrate. We all have to accept external discipline in the form of the laws of our society. Gradually as they grow older, children are expected to observe some rules of behaviour, in accordance with the demands of society, be it within school or in the home environment. Children may battle against this, some more strongly than others, but the parent's and teacher's role is to gently but firmly insist on compliance, with patience and consistency. It is through this process that the child learns behaviour appropriate to his / her ages and the society in which he/she lives.

Explaining the rules to the child, and also the reasons for the rules this helps the child to understand and internalise the rules and it diminishes the need for external enforcement. Children can be encouraged to see the effects of their attitudes and behaviour on the school community as well as on their own progress. Your support is important so that children learn quickly the sort of conduct that is acceptable in terms of the good behaviour and manners needed for living together in a community.

Some Principles

Children of primary school age depend on the directions of their teacher to help them develop that control that is necessary for them if they are to master the art of working and playing in large groups. A major incentive to learning is a pupil-teacher relationship based on respect and co-operation rather than fear. The more positively children are motivated; the less need there will be for external discipline of any kind. The quality of teaching has a direct influence on pupil behaviour. Lively and stimulating methods with work well matched to pupils' abilities are likely to receive a positive response from children.

Positive expectations can make pupils more responsible in their work and conduct. Parents play a crucial role in shaping attitudes in their children, which produce good behaviour in school. To maintain high standards of behaviour, the school must rely on the support and cooperation of the parents. The primary responsibility for the behaviour of pupils when they come to school lies with their parents.

Parents can co-operate with the school by encouraging their children to abide by the school rules and by visiting the school when requested by the Principal or other members of the teaching staff. Please communicate regularly with the school about factors likely to affect the behaviour of your child at school.

This Code of Behaviour and Discipline has been drawn up by the Principal in accordance with the Department of Education guidelines. It has been agreed by staff and ratified by Board of Management.

The aim of this Code of Behaviour and Discipline is to help create a positive learning environment, relatively free from disruption, in which every pupil is encouraged to become more self-disciplined and can benefit from school.

We wish to

- Maintain a high level of co-operation among / between staff, pupils and parents creating a strong sense of community within the school leading to a high standard of behaviour.
- Help organise a large group so that school can operate smoothly for the benefit of all.
- Care in a practical way for pupils, staff, visitors, the school & its environment.
- Offer a framework within which positive techniques of motivation encouragement and praise of good behaviour are utilised by teachers.
- Keep rules to a minimum stating them positively in terms of what pupils should do.
- Try and ensure that the curriculum matches the abilities aptitude and interests of each pupil, thus reducing boredom, lack of interest or lack of progress.

The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the Principal. Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within the classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good order within the school premises / grounds.

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

- Reasoning with the pupil.
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
- Separation from peers, friends or others (Duration of separation dependent of improvement in behaviour).
- Prescribing additional work.
- Referral to Principal.
- Communication with Parents.

Teachers shall keep a written record of all instances of serious misbehaviour, as well as records of improvements in the behaviour of disruptive pupils. When sanctions are invoked, pupils should understand that what they have done is not acceptable and that it is the misbehaviour that is rejected and not the pupil.

The procedure outlined here is followed when dealing with persistent minor misbehaviour, or serious misbehaviour by pupils. The particular step invoked will depend on the seriousness of the misbehaviour.

1. The teacher requests the pupil to stop and discusses the offending behaviour with the pupil. If the misbehaviour continues, then...
2. The pupil is reprimanded, advised on how to improve, and maybe given additional work. If the misbehaviour continues, then....
3. The child, (if old enough) is asked to write an account of how he/she is misbehaving and its effect on the work/play of others / themselves. A note is sent to the parents by the teacher. When they have discussed the contents of the note with their child, and the child decides that the unacceptable behaviour will not continue, the parents sign the note and return it to the teacher the next school-day. Principal informed. If the misbehaviour continues, then...
4. The class teacher meets with the parents of the pupil. Principal informed. If the misbehaviour continues, then...
5. Formal letter to the parents from the Principal. Parents will be asked to come to the school to meet the Principal and teacher. If the misbehaviour continues, then...

6. After consultation with parents and the teacher, the Principal may seek further help to cope with the behavioural problem; e.g. assessment, with the approval of parents.

Suspension of Pupils

For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviours, suspension will be considered. In such case the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed. The parents must give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future. If not, the pupil may have to be excluded from the school, in accordance with rule 130(5) of the Rules for National Schools. The maximum initial period of such exclusion shall be three school days.

It must be stated that at Scoil Mhuire we have children whom we and their parents can be justly proud. There are very few problems, and rarely do we have anything as serious as the above might suggest.

Rialacha na Scoile

- Pupils are expected to be seated in their classrooms at 9.00 a.m.
- While in your room you must sit down quietly.
- Never leave the school grounds without permission from the Principal.
- Pupils are not to climb up on boundary walls / fences.
- Walk slowly and quietly on the right-hand side on corridors, and when entering or leaving classroom.
- At break time eat your lunch in the room. Go to the toilet (having got permission). If fine, get into line when told and walk to your own play area. If wet, remain quietly seated in your room.
- When the bell rings, at the end of break-time, clean your footwear if necessary. Then walk to your line, and wait for your teacher to bring you to your classroom.
- One person only at a time, per class is allowed to go to the toilets.
- Bullying, threatening, rough play, kicking, fighting, pushing, hurting others deliberately and bad language are totally prohibited. (Be careful always, particularly at break time, and help prevent accidents).
- Respect for others – teachers, all other pupils, all visitors to school essential at all times.
- Pupils are expected to treat all school property with care. Do not write on school furniture and buildings. Breakages or damage caused must be reported immediately to the teacher.
- Don't drop litter in your room, or in the school buildings and grounds.
- Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school.

PARENTS – PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS THE ABOVE RULES WITH YOUR CHILD