

Code of Behaviour

Good behaviour is based on good relations between parents/guardians, child and school.

In Kilglass NS, we hope to foster this ideal in co-operation with our parents/guardians. We have adopted a positive code of behaviour with emphasis on encouragement and reward so that good behaviour can prevail in our school. It is our Board's statutory obligation under the Health and Safety Acts to provide a safe place of work for staff and pupils.

The Board of Management of the school has ultimate responsibility for behaviour in the school. Within the school, the overall day to day responsibility for behaviour rests with the Principal. Each teacher has the responsibility for the maintenance of good behaviour and good order within his/her classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good behaviour within the school premises.

Parents/guardians can support the school by encouraging their children to understand the need for school rules, and by communicating any relevant concerns to the school.

Aims of the code

- To create a positive and safe learning environment that encourages and reinforces good behaviour
- To promote self-esteem and positive relationships
- To encourage consistency of response to both positive and negative behaviour
- To foster a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in pupils and to support good behaviour patterns based on consideration and respect for the rights of others
- To facilitate the education and development of every child
- To foster caring attitudes to one another and to the environment
- To enable teachers to teach without disruption
- To ensure that the school's expectations and strategies are widely known and understood through the parent's handbook, availability of policies and an ethos of open communication
- To encourage the involvement of both home and school in the implementation of this policy

Responsibility of Adults

The adults encountered by the children at school have an important responsibility to model high standards of behaviour, both in their dealings with the children and with each other, as their example has an important influence on the children.

As adults we should aim to:

- Create a positive climate with realistic expectations.
- Promote positive behaviour, through example, honesty and courtesy.
- Provide a caring and effective learning environment.
- Encourage relationships based on kindness, respect and understanding of the needs of others.
- Ensure fair treatment for all regardless of age, gender, race, ability and disability.
- Show appreciation of the efforts and contribution of all.
- To discourage physical aggression and encourage '*Kind Hands, Kind Words, Kind Feet*'.

A Code of Conduct for staff, pupils and volunteers ensures that the rights of all are upheld.

School Rules

1. We show respect for self and others
2. We arrive to and depart from school at the agreed times- go to our designated areas.
3. We wash hands using soap and water when we enter school and when instructed by teachers and staff.
4. We keep a safe distance from other pupils and refrain from physical contact with peers.

5. We maintain healthy practise when coughing or sneezing- The main principle is to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' – cover any cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and avoid touching the mouth, nose and eyes with hands.
6. We show respect for our own property and the property of others-maintain responsibility for our own equipment- no sharing with other pupils
7. We listen carefully and work hard in school and do our best to complete our homework and get it signed by a parent/ guardian.
8. We show respect for our school and be proud to represent the school at whatever activity we may be asked or selected.
9. We are truthful and honest at all times.
10. We wear the full school uniform/tracksuit as directed.
11. We wear safe, flat shoes.
12. We label and take responsibility for all my belongings.
13. We bring a sensible, nutritional lunch to school- 'Healthy Lunches'. We follow our Healthy Eating Policy.
14. We show respect other students and their learning
15. We are kind and willing to help others
16. We follow instructions from staff immediately
17. We walk quietly in the school building and adhere to rules in relation to toilets and pre - arranged playtime activities
18. We show courtesy and good manners
19. We try to use respectful ways of resolving difficulties and conflict
20. We refrain from spitting or coughing towards other pupils and members of staff.
21. We do our best in class
22. We take responsibility for our own work.
23. We do not bring a mobile phone to school.
24. We do not wear earrings or body piercings as they prove to be a danger to myself and others. We may wear 1 pair of stud earrings which must be worn in the lobe of my ear. Stud earrings must be removed on P.E. Days.
25. I may wear a watch but smart watches are prohibited.
26. We do not wear jewellery e.g. neck chains or bracelets.
27. We do not bring money, other than that which is necessary for school requirements, to school.

These can be summed up as 7 Golden Rules:

1. We listen. We don't interrupt.
2. We are gentle. We don't hurt others.
3. We are honest. We tell the truth.
4. We are kind.
5. We work hard. We don't waste time.
6. We look after property. We don't damage things.
7. We respect social distancing and etiquette regarding Covid 19.

These 7 "Golden Rules" will be the main ones used for infant classes. Rules apply during school-time and during all school related activities.

Class Rules

At the beginning of each academic year, the class teacher will draft a list of class rules with the children, based closely on the "Golden Rules". Class rules will be kept to a minimum and are devised with regard for the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community. Where possible they emphasise positive behaviour (e.g. 'Walk' and not, 'Don't run'). Rules will

be applied in a fair and consistent manner, with due regard to the age of the pupils and to individual difference. Where difficulties arise, parents will be contacted at an early stage.

Incentives/Reward System

Part of the vision of Kilglass N.S. is to help children achieve their personal best and thus prepare them for further education, life and work. We recognise that there are many different forms of intelligence and similarly that children use a variety of approaches to solve problems. Our reward system seeks to provide encouragement to all children of all abilities and talents. Children will be encouraged, praised and listened to by adults in the school. Praise is earned by the maintenance of good standards as well as by particularly noteworthy personal achievements. Rates of praise for behaviour should be as high as for work.

The following are some samples of how praise might be given:

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval
- A comment in a pupil's copy or homework journal
- A word of praise in front of a group or class
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege
- A mention to parent, written or verbal communication
- A special mention, a bualadh bos and certificate awarded at assembly.

Trips and annual school tours will be reserved for those who have consistently strived to behave well.

- If there is a concern about behaviour with a child the teacher will meet with the child's parents/guardian
- If there is no improvement following parent/teacher meeting and if negative behaviour continues the class teacher and Principal will meet with parent/guardian to develop a behaviour management plan.
- If there is no improvement at this stage the parent/guardian will be called to meet with the Principal and the Chairperson of the Board of Management where the situation will be discussed in detail. Guidelines will be drawn up for future behaviour in the school and playground. Very occasionally, this may include a request from the teacher/principal that the parent/guardian of the child supervise their child during a school outing.
- The school reserves the right to arrange a meeting with the parents/guardians of a child at any time, should the child's behaviour be deemed to be unacceptable.
- If a parent refuses to meet with a class teacher the matter will be referred to the Principal. Any refusal to meet with the Principal and/or Chairperson will automatically be referred to the Board of Management and regarded as a serious breach of co-operation in our school behaviour policy.

Notification of a Child's Absence from School

Parents are required to inform the school of the reason for their child's absence on his/her return to school. A note in the child's school journal or dated note for Junior and Senior Infant children should be provided to the child's teacher. In cases of prolonged illness a doctor's certificate will be required. All notes and medical certificates pertaining to absences will be kept by the Deputy Principal. The Principal may contact parents where there are concerns regarding absences or where adequate reasons for absence/absences have not been provided by parents.

Unacceptable Behaviour

Three levels of misbehaviour are recognised: Minor, Serious and Gross. All everyday instances of a minor nature are dealt with by the class teacher, or the supervising teacher at break-times. In cases of repeated serious misbehaviour or single instances of gross misbehaviour parents will be involved at an early stage and invited to meet the teacher and/or the principal to discuss their child's behaviour.

See Appendix 1- attached

- Bullying is repeated aggression - physical, verbal or emotional - conducted by an individual or group against another or others.

- **PHYSICAL:** includes pushing, shoving, punching, kicking, poking, tripping, etc.
- **VERBAL:** name calling which hurts, insults or humiliates.
- **EMOTIONAL:** threats or persistent hurtful remarks regarding sensitive areas e.g. appearance, dress, progress, colour, culture and disability. Isolating or shunning a child. Threats to extort money or possessions. "Cyber/text" bullying.

The school takes particular care to intervene early in responding to the needs, fears or anxieties of individual members in a sensitive manner.

Issues in relation to Bullying are explored continually during SPHE lessons and using Circle Time, Drama etc.

Should a parent/guardian have any concerns which need to be discussed with a teacher, all staff members are more than willing to facilitate a meeting, made through the proper channels i.e. a phone call to the office, or a note to the class teacher to arrange a convenient time for both parties. The first person to be informed should be the class teacher.

This arrangement ensures that all concerns are dealt with in a dignified, meaningful manner, without infringing on valuable teaching time.

Isolated incidents of aggressive behaviour, while not to be condoned, cannot be described as bullying.

Incidents of bullying will be dealt with in the same manner as breaches of discipline – already outlined in our Code of Behaviour.

In the case where a parent reports a bullying incident, the school reserves the right to inform the relevant parties of the identity of the person making the complaint, when this is deemed necessary.

Sanctions

The purpose of a sanction is to bring about a change in behaviour by:

- helping students to learn that their behaviour is unacceptable
- helping them to recognise the effect of their actions and behaviour on others
- helping students (in ways appropriate to their age and development) to understand that they have choices about their own behaviour and that all choices have consequences
- helping them to learn to take responsibility for their behaviour.

A sanction may also:

- reinforce the boundaries set out in the code of behaviour
- signal to other students and to staff that their wellbeing is being protected.

In instances of more serious breaches of school standards, sanctions may be needed to:

- prevent serious disruption of teaching and learning
- keep the student, or other students or adults, safe.

The following steps will be taken when a child behaves inappropriately. The list is by no means exhaustive. Teachers may put in place alternative measures bearing in mind the circumstances involved. The aim of any sanction is to prevent the behaviour occurring again and if necessary to help the pupil devise strategies for this.

1. Reasoning with pupil
2. Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve
3. Temporary separation from peers within class and/or temporary removal to another class
4. Prescribing extra work/ writing out the story of what happened
5. Loss of privileges
6. Detention during break or after school
7. Communication with parents

8. Referral to Principal
9. Principal communicating with parents
10. Exclusion (Suspension or Expulsion) from school (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular and Education Welfare Act 2000)

Usually sanctions will relate as closely as possible to the behaviour.

Suspension and Expulsion

Before serious sanctions such as detention, suspension or expulsion are used, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Where it is proposed to detain a pupil after school hours the parents or guardians will be notified. 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 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 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 for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000. Before suspending or expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Education Welfare 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 will 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 and the class teacher, learning support/ resource teacher, and or principal will work closely with home to ensure that optimal support is given. Cognitive development will be taken into account at all times. Professional advice from psychological assessments will be invaluable.

The children in the class or school may be taught strategies to assist a pupil with special needs adhere to the rules and thus provide peer support. This will be done in a supportive and safe way, acknowledging and respecting the difference in all individuals.

Communicating with Parents

Communicating with parents is central to maintaining a positive approach to dealing with children. Parents and teachers should develop a joint strategy to address specific difficulties, in

addition to sharing a broader philosophy which can be implemented at home and in school.

A high level of co-operation and open communication is seen as an important factor encouraging positive behaviour in the school. Structures and channels designed to maintain a high level of communication among staff and between staff, pupils and parents have been established and are being reviewed regularly.

Parents are encouraged to talk in confidence to teachers about any significant developments in a child's life (in the past or present), which may affect the child's behaviour.

The following methods of communication are to be used within the school:

- Informal/formal parent/teacher
- Through children's homework journal (infants do not have a homework journal, please check bags for notes)
- Letters/notes from school to home and from home to school
- School notice board
- Newsletters/school web-site/e-mails
- TextaParent service.

Appendix 1

Categories	Examples	Possible Sanctions
Minor Misbehaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Courtesy • Low key disruptive behaviour which affects children's learning • Use of bad language • Moving out of assigned yard area • Inappropriate or rough play • Not taking turns • In other pupils personal space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal reprimand • Reasoning with pupil • Time out • Inform parents in junior classes • Note in the journal • Denial of participation in some class activity
Repeated Minor Misbehaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of courtesy • Low key disruptive behaviour which affects children's learning • Use of bad language • Moving out of assigned yard area • Inappropriate or rough play • Not taking turns • In pupils personal space • Constant incompleteness of homework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal Recording of Behaviour • Report to Principal • Contact with parents • Time out within a class • Removal of a Privilege
Serious Misbehaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disrespectful verbal / non verbal behaviour • Name calling and use of inappropriate language • Behaviour that is hurtful (including bullying, harassment, discrimination and victimisation) • Continuous defiance of teacher • Verbal assault on other children • An assault on another child ie coughing, spitting or sneezing towards another pupil or staff member • Constant disregard for school rules • Non compliance when corrected by teachers and S.N.A.s • Constantly disturbing others and preventing them from learning • Constant incompleteness of homework • Constantly excluding other children • Having objects in their possession, which could be a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal recording of behaviour Class Record/Yard Book • Informing parents (note in journal to be signed by parent/guardian) • Class teacher meets parent(s)/guardian(s) • Principal talks to child • Removal of a Privilege • Exclusion from After School Activities or External Activities

	<p>danger to themselves and others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing mobile phones and/or other electronic devices to school 	
Gross Misbehaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious physical assault on another child/ teacher and member of staff • Blatant defiance of authority • Uploading of any photo and/or video relating to school/school activity on social media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Bullying – See below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral to the Principal • Meeting with the Principal/Parent (Dept. Guidelines/Welfare Act 2000) • Referral to BOM in accordance with Rule 130(6) as amended by CIR.7/88 and 'Developing a Code of Behaviour Guidelines for Schools'(2008) • Suspension • Expulsion

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Michael Hill

(Acting Chairperson)

10/8/20

