



Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, Fíobhach Díseart

Feevagh National School

Feevagh, Dysart, Co.
Roscommon H53NX71



090 6622200



info@feevaghns.ie

Roll No.: 18005J

RCN: 20133825

A catholic Primary School in the Parish of Ballyforan, Dysart and Tisrara and under the patronage of the Bishop of the Diocese of Elphin

Code of Behaviour and Discipline Policy (incl. Conduct of parents)

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

Rationale

In *Feevagh School*, 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.

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 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 availability of policies and an ethos of open communication
- To encourage the involvement of both home and school in the implementation of this policy

Principles

- Feevagh N.S. recognises the individuality of each child; the variety of differences that exist between children and the rights of each child to an education in a safe and secure environment.
- In order that a high standard of behaviour be achieved, a strong sense of community within the school is essential and a high level of co-operation among teachers, staff, parents and pupils.
- Every effort will be made to ensure that the code of behaviour and discipline is implemented in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner.

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*'.

School Rules

School rules are devised with regard for the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community.

1. Respect and Courtesy:

(a) All pupils are expected to treat their teachers, fellow pupils and visitors with respect and courtesy at all times.

(b) Inappropriate and vulgar language will not be tolerated in any circumstances and use of such language will be regarded as a very serious misdemeanour.

2. Punctuality:

Classes begins at 9.30am until 3.10pm

9.30am until 2.10pm Infants/Senior Infants

No responsibility is accepted for the pupils outside of these times.

3. Absences: Parents must fill in the "Absences" booklet and bring the relevant sheet to the class teacher.
4. Children are not allowed to leave the school grounds without prior permission from the teacher. Whenever parents wish to speak with their child, permission must be sought from the Principal teacher or teacher on yard duty.
5. If a child has an appointment (eg. Dentist etc.) or is needed by the parents during school hours for whatever reason, the child must be collected at the school door and left back to the classroom afterwards. Teachers would appreciate if prior notice (written or verbal) was given.
6. All the children are expected to wear the school uniform. All children are expected to have indoor shoes/slippers. These must be fitted; (no flip-flops or other such slippers).
7. School Property and Grounds: pupils must respect all school property. Deliberate damage to school property must be made good or replaced by the pupil(s) concerned or the school must be reimbursed financially to cover the loss.
8. It is essential for pupils to keep the school and school grounds tidy. Children must not throw litter. Reduce, reuse, recycle.
9. Lunches: All children should bring a healthy lunch to school. Chewing gum, sweets, bars, crisps and crisp type foods are not permitted. Canned and glass bottled and fizzy drinks are also forbidden.
10. Possession of, and use of mobile phones is strictly forbidden. Phones will be confiscated by the teacher and returned to their parents/guardians.
11. Bullying is defined in the Departmental Guidelines as repeated aggression; verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against others. Isolated incidents of aggressive behaviour can scarcely be described as bullying. However if children are being bullied the teachers must be told so that the matter can be dealt with effectively.
12. (a) Attend school regularly and do not miss days without good reason.
(b) Pupils must not behave in a manner likely to disrupt class work.
(c) Pupils are expected to listen carefully to instructions and obey them.
(d) Pupils are expected to listen carefully to each other and to show respect for their classmates.
(e) Pupils are expected to work quietly and independently if the teacher is working with another pupil or dealing with a visitor.

(f) Pupils must obey and accept correction from all teachers and visiting teachers and others, such as P.E. coaches on the sports field or in the swimming pool.

(g) Pupils are not allowed into the classrooms at break-time or lunchtime without the permission of the teacher on yard duty.

(h) School bags must be kept off the passage between desks.

13. In the yard; fighting and rough play are not permitted.

It is strictly forbidden to climb on or cross the perimeter walls. Swinging from goalposts or crossbars is dangerous and forbidden.

14. Children who bring a bicycle to school are not allowed to cycle in the school grounds. No child is allowed to interfere with another child's bicycle.

15. Homework is an essential part of school life and is necessary to reinforce work taught in class and to foster independent study. Parents should check nightly to ensure homework has been completed. Homework diaries should only be signed when the homework has been completed by the child.

16. In general each class teacher will deal with class problems. For more serious discipline problems or repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour a pupils' parents will be notified of such instances when necessary.

Class Rules

At the beginning of each academic year, the class teacher will draft a list of class rules with the children. 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.

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.

Examples of minor misbehaviour include:

- Bringing electronic equipment or mobile-phones to school
- Not wearing appropriate uniform; bringing in chewing-gum
- Not following instructions.

Examples of serious misbehaviour include:

- Behaviour that is hurtful (including bullying, harassment, discrimination and victimisation)
- Behaviour that interferes with teaching and learning
- Threats or physical hurt to another person
- Damage to property
- Theft
- Bringing dangerous equipment to school
- Leaving school/school activities without permission.

Examples of gross misbehaviour include:

- Assault on a teacher or pupil
- Serious Theft
- Serious Damage to property
- Serious bullying
- Carrying drugs, alcohol, cigarettes

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 principal, 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. Communication with parents
7. Referral to Principal
8. Principal communicating with parents
9. 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 suspension or expulsion are used, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. 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, special education 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.

Conduct of 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 a 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 & Safety of all staff and students, parents are requested not to approach or reprimand another person's child on the school premises.

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
- Letters/notes from school to home and from home to school
- School notice board
- Newsletters/school web-site/e-mails
- TextaParent service.

Implementation

This policy will be implemented immediately following ratification by the Board of Management and communication to the parents/guardians.

Ratification and Review of this policy:

This policy was reviewed by the Board of Management of Feevagh N.S. in June 2020.

It was ratified by the Board of Management on:

DATE: 29th June 2020

CHAIRPERSON: *Fr. Francis Beirne*