



Scoil Mhuire



SCOIL MHUIRE

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www.ballyheanens.com

Ballyheane

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Beal Aitha hEín

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The Code of Behaviour and Discipline:

Statement:

1. In devising the code, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of this school. The aim is ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated while acknowledging the right of each child to education in a relatively disruption free environment.
2. Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school. The code offers a framework within which positive techniques of motivation and encouragement are utilised by teachers.
3. The school places greater emphasis on encouragement than on sanctions in the belief that this will, in the long run, give the best results.
4. The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
5. It is agreed that a high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school and a high level of co-operation among staff and between staff, pupils and parents.
6. School rules are being kept to a minimum and are positively stated in terms of what pupils should do.
7. All efforts will be made to match the curriculum to the abilities, aptitudes and interests of each pupil. This should help to reduce boredom, lack of interest or lack of progress.
8. The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the principal. Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within his/her classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good order within the school premises. A pupil will be referred to the Principal for serious breaches of discipline.
9. Pupils must respect the right of other children to learn. Discipline is a matter for every pupil. A minority of disruptive pupils can adversely affect the educational progress of an entire class. Any behaviour that interferes with this right e.g. constant disruption of the class or persistent distracting of others is considered unacceptable behaviour. In order that pupils derive benefit from the work in class, full co-operation is required from pupils at all times. Pupils must co-operate with instructions given by the teacher.



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

- Reasoning with the pupil.
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
- Temporary separation from peers, friends or others.
- Prescribing additional work.
- Communication with parents.
- Referral to Principal
- Suspension (Temporary)

Teachers shall keep a written record of all instances of serious misbehaviour. Before resorting to serious sanctions e.g. suspension, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Parents will be involved at an early stage, rather than as a last resort.

10. Communication with parents will be verbal or by letter, depending on circumstances. The parents concerned will be invited to come to school to discuss their child's case. For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension will be considered. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour, depending on circumstances.

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 have to be suspended for a temporary period. Suspension will be in accordance with Rule 130 for National Schools. (Circular 7/88.)

In the case of gross misbehaviour the Board shall authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents.

Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with Rule 130 (6).

11. Every effort will be made to support and assist pupils who may have a learning difficulty. Help will be also sought from support services provided by the Health Boards.



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12. All members of the teaching staff have been involved in planning the code. A copy of this code is available to all parents.

13. In the belief that the most effective schools tend to be those with the best relationships with parents, every effort will be made by the principal and staff to ensure the parents are well informed, that the school provides a welcoming atmosphere towards parents and that parents are not only told when their children are in trouble but when they have behaved particularly well.

Parents are earnestly requested to:

- Become familiar with the school's policy document in relation to discipline.
- Co-operates with the school with regard to the implementation of its policy on discipline.
- Communicate regularly with the school about factors likely to affect the behaviour of their children in school.

This code is subject to revision.

The Board of Management wishes to thank you for your co-operation and continued support.

December 2000.

Reviewed November 2001

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Appendix - School Rules

1. Pupils are required to behave in a responsible manner towards themselves and others, showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other pupils and adults.
2. The property of the individual and of the school must be respected.
3. Pupils are required to be regular in their attendance at school. After a pupil has been absent a note from the Parent/Guardian or family Doctor (in the case of long illness) must always be brought to the class teacher upon the child's return to school. Absences exceeding 20 days will be reported by the principal to the Education Welfare Board.
4. Any behaviour which endangers oneself or others is forbidden e.g.
fighting, kicking, spitting, pushing and shoving.
5. Pupils must remain on school premises during breaks. Permission to leave must be sought from the Principal.
6. Respect for others is a basic rule. Any kind of verbal abuse of other pupils is strictly forbidden. Bullying or intimidation of other pupils will not be tolerated and is always regarded as a serious matter.
7. For reasons of safety and in order to avoid accidents, pupils must move about the school in an orderly manner. Pupils must walk in the corridors.
8. Homework : Parents should sign the homework notebook, to confirm that all homework has been completed. If for some reason homework or any part of it cannot be completed parents are asked to explain this in the notebook.
9. Students must use school bins for litter at all times.



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10. All food and drinks to be consumed in child`s own classroom. Leftovers must be brought home.

11. Any school property brought home eg. library books etc. should be returned in the same condition as when taken on loan.