

Code of Behaviour

Rationale

Under Section 23 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, the Board of Management is obliged to make available a Code of Discipline in respect of its pupils. This is to be undertaken in accordance with Guidelines issued by the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB). The NEWB advises schools on matters relating to the conduct of students and must *'promote and foster, in recognised schools, an environment that encourages children to attend school and participate fully in the life of the school.'* Scoil Barra Naofa's policy is based on mutual respect between teacher and pupil, recognising that pupils have a right to learn in a supportive and caring environment without fear. Parental support is a vital component in the successful implementation of our policy.

Aims

- To provide guidance for pupils, teachers and parents on behavioural expectations.
- To provide for the effective and safe operation of the school
- To develop pupils' self-esteem and to promote positive behaviour.
- To foster the development of a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in pupils based on respect, consideration and tolerance 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.

Rules of Scoil Barra Naofa

3 Rs – Respect, Responsibility, Reaction

- Respect oneself, teachers, pupils and all visitors to Scoil Barra Naofa
- Respect school property and the belongings of others
- Keep place and classroom tidy and clean.
- Line up quietly and walk safely on the stairs and corridors.
- Do one's best in school and do homework well.
- Wear the school uniform.
- Be on time for school.
- Eat a healthy lunch.
- Have a toilet bag with a small towel in school each day
- Keep mobile phones and games at home.

Positive Interventions

- Positive verbal affirmation of good behaviour.
- Written affirmation of good behaviour in Homework Journal.
- Delegation of special responsibility or privilege e.g. Golden Time
- In Class Merit awards e.g. Student of the Week, Star Charts
- Principal's Awards
- Whole Class / School Reward Chart – ‘Battery Bars’
- Friendship Week
- Lunch Time Pals
- Peer Tutoring – E.g. Buddies
- Individualised Behavioural Plans / Logs
- Stay Safe, Walk Tall and R.S.E. Programmes
- Circle Time
- Student Council & Student Council Suggestion Boxes
- Zippy's Friends / SALT Programme

Minor Misdemeanours

- Interrupting Class Work
- Arriving late for school
- Not bringing note from Parents to explain absences
- Running in corridors
- Talking in class line
- Leaving seat without permission at lunch time
- Placing food/ drink in bin
- Littering
- Not wearing correct school uniform
- Being discourteous/ unmannerly
- Not completing homework
- Not having homework signed
- Not handing up mobile phone to class teacher / principal on arrival
- Misbehaviour in yard e.g. running wildly, lifting others, playing unsafely

Procedure (Single Occurrences)

- Verbal reprimand / reasoning
- Writing of school rule (to an upper limit of 20 times)
- Note in Homework Journal to be signed by Parent
- Temporary separation from peers in class or in yard
- Denial of participation in class activity where safety of pupil(s) is an issue E.g. Group Work / P.E. / Drama / Science experiments etc.
- Detention at break time
- Removal of child to another class
- Extra work allocated

**The Class Teacher decides which procedure above is appropriate when dealing with minor misdemeanours.*

Procedure (Repeated Occurrences)

- Child is sent to Principal or Deputy Principal and Class Teacher sends note in Homework Journal to parents.
- Class Teacher phones parents or meets with parent(s).
- Principal and Class Teacher meet with parent(s) if there is no improvement.

Serious Misdemeanours

- Constant Disruption of Class
- Telling lies
- Stealing
- Damaging school property
- Bullying & Cyber bullying
- Leaving school without permission
- Frequenting school premises after school without permission
- Consistently working below abilities
- Using unacceptable language
- Bringing weapons to school
- Disrespecting a teacher, staff member or pupil
- Damaging /Interfering with another pupil's property

Procedure

- Child is sent to Principal or Deputy Principal and a note is sent home in homework journal to be signed by parent(s).
- One of the sanctions from the minor misdemeanours procedures above is applied as appropriate.
- Class Teacher meets with parent(s).
- Principal and Class Teacher meet with parent(s).
- If appropriate, the Chairperson of the Board of Management is informed and the parent(s) are requested to meet with Chairperson and Principal.

Gross Misdemeanours

- Ongoing serious misdemeanours will constitute gross misdemeanours.
- Setting fire to school property.
- Vandalism of school property.
- Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher or pupil i.e. deliberately injuring a fellow pupil, teacher or staff member e.g. hitting, kicking, biting
- Placing an offensive message, image or statement about a pupil, the school or a teacher / member of staff on any internet site or social media site / app.

Procedure

- Chairperson / Principal to sanction immediate suspension pending discussion with parents (the period not to exceed three days).
- Before suspension, the Board of Management shall notify the Local Welfare Education Officer in writing in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.
- Following or during a period of suspension the parents may apply to have the pupil reinstated to the school.
- The parents must give an undertaking that the child will behave in accordance with the Code of Behaviour before reinstatement.
- The Principal must be satisfied that the child's reinstatement will not constitute a risk to the child's own safety or that of the other pupils or staff.
- The Principal will facilitate the preparation of a behavioural plan for the child if required and will re-admit the child formally to the class.
- Expulsion will only be considered in an extreme case in accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2000 and with due regard to fairness procedures.

Responsibilities of Board of Management

- To provide a comfortable, safe environment.
- To support the Principal and staff in implementing the Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy.

Responsibilities of Principal

- To promote a positive climate in the school.
- To ensure the Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy are implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
- To arrange for a regular review of the Code.

Responsibilities of Teachers

- To create a safe working environment for each pupil.
- To recognise and affirm effort and good behaviour.
- To recognise and provide for individual talents and differences among pupils.
- To ensure the Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy is implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
- To keep a record of instances of serious misdemeanours and any bullying allegations.
- To communicate with Parents where the need arises.
- To provide support for colleagues.

Responsibilities of Parents

- To ensure their children are aware of the school rules and to support the school in their implementation.
- To support and encourage their children's efforts.
- To co-operate with the teachers in instances of minor, serious and gross misdemeanours and any instances of bullying.
- To communicate with the school in relation to any problems which may affect child's progress or behaviour.

Responsibilities of Pupils

- To follow the rules of Scoil Barra Naofa.

Implementation, Review and Communication

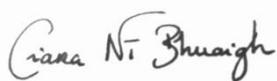
This policy was approved and adopted by the Board of Management in 2013/14. It was reviewed in full in March 2017.

The Board of Management will monitor the implementation of all aspects of this policy and amend as required. The policy will be monitored annually, and reviewed as necessary, in the light of experience. It will be reviewed fully every three years.

Any staff member, Board of Management member parent / guardian of a current student, may request a review at any time, and such a request will be dealt with as soon as possible.

This policy will be communicated to the entire school community through the school website. Parents will also receive a copy on enrolment of their child.

Next full Review Date: March 2020

Signed: 

(Principal)

Signed: 

(Chairperson B.o.M.)