



Scoil Barra Naofa Code of Behavior

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 behavioral expectations.
- To provide for the effective and safe operation of the school
- To develop pupils' self-esteem and to promote positive behavior.
- 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 behavior.
- Written affirmation of good behavior 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 Behavioral 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 Misdemeanors

- Interrupting Class Work
- Arriving late for school
- Not bringing note from Parents to explain absences
- Running in corridors
- Talking in class line
- Placing food/ drink in bin
- Littering
- Leaving seat without permission
- Not completing homework
- Not having homework signed
- Not handing up mobile phone to class teacher / principal on arrival
- Not adhering to physical distancing guidelines indoors/in class.
- Not wearing correct school uniform
- Being discourteous/ unmannerly including making unkind references to a person's health/appearance or their family's health/appearance.
- Misbehavior in yard e.g. running wildly, lifting others, playing unsafely, leaving yard/bubble without permission.

Procedure (Single Occurrences)

- Verbal reprimand / reasoning
- Note in Homework Journal to be signed by Parent
- Review of participation in class activity where safety of pupil(s) is an issue
E.g. Group Work / P.E. / Drama / Science experiments etc.
- Extra/Different work allocated in place of group work/activity.

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

Procedure (Repeated Occurrences)

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

Serious Misdemeanors

- Constant Disruption of Class
- Leaving classroom without permission
- Continued/intentional breaches of physical distancing measures indoors or in class
- Continued discourteous/ unmannerly behavior including making unkind references to a person's health/appearance or their family's health/appearance.
- Continued or intentional carelessness in caring for and keeping tidy/clean their personal property, used tissues/paper-towels etc.
- Continued or intentional carelessness in caring for and keeping tidy/clean school property and equipment.
- Telling lies
- Stealing
- Bullying & Cyber bullying
- 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 misdemeanors 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 Misdemeanors

- Ongoing serious misdemeanors will constitute gross misdemeanors.
- Verbally threatening to harm a fellow pupil or staff member including threatening to cough or spit in another person's direction.
- Aggressive, threatening or violent behavior towards a teacher or pupil i.e. deliberately injuring a fellow pupil, teacher or staff member e.g. hitting, kicking, throwing an object/maneuvering furniture with intent to hurt, coughing or spitting in another person's direction.
- Misuse of masks or coverings or tampering with the mask or face covering of another individual.
- Leaving school grounds without permission
- Sharing information or digital property of other's online without their permission.
- 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.
- Setting fire to school property.
- Vandalism of school property including signage, hand washing equipment and other health and safety additions to the school building

Procedure

- The Board of Management of a recognized school has the authority to suspend a student. The Board of Scoil Barra Naofa delegates the authority to the Chairperson / Principal to sanction immediate suspension pending discussion with parents (the period not to exceed three days).
- Suspensions should be a proportionate response to the behavior that is causing concern and suspensions should follow attempts to put other interventions in place e.g. behavior plan.
- A single incident of serious misconduct can be grounds for a suspension. Examples of a serious single incident include, but are not limited to; the student's continued presence presenting a threat to the safety of themselves and others, serious damage to property, the student's behavior is having a detrimental effect on the education of other pupils.
- 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 Behavior 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 behavioral 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.

Covid 19 and Code of Behavior

This Code of Behavior has been reviewed and amended in response to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic and associated challenges. The Board of Management of SBN has put in place a Covid Response Plan to ensure the safe return to school of all pupils and staff. This plan has been published on the school website. The Board of Management has published its Covid 19 Policy Statement on the school website. This statement outlines the steps taken and future provision for the continued safety of all pupils and staff. Furthermore, a risk assessment has been completed and the Health and Safety Statement updated accordingly.

All staff have undertaken training provided by the Department of Education and Skills and children taught the correct procedures for hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, physical distancing and school procedures in relation to Covid 19. It is recognized that all pupils, parents, staff and board members have a part to play in reopening SBN successfully and ensuring the continued successful return to education for all. Breaches of the SBN Covid Response Plan and Health and Safety Statement will be dealt with in accordance with our Code of Behavior.

While some aspects of our positive behavior management will need to adapt in response to Covid 19 e.g. whole school assemblies cannot take place, we will endeavor to use all other appropriate positive interventions and engage in enhanced SPHE activities which promote emotional regulation and wellbeing. Wellbeing and mindfulness activity packs have been prepared and shared to promote wellbeing and a positive return to school.

Please take note of the additions in sections above dealing with minor/serious/gross misbehavior and the associated sanctions. These additions deal with Covid 19 related misbehavior and subsequent sanctions.

Responsibilities of Board of Management

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

Responsibilities of Principal

- To promote a positive climate in the school.
- To ensure the Code of Behavior 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 behavior.
- To recognise and provide for individual talents and differences among pupils.
- To ensure the Code of Behavior and Anti-Bullying Policy is implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
- To keep a record of instances of serious misdemeanors 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 policy was reviewed and updated in August 2020 in response to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic and the specific challenges associated with this.

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.

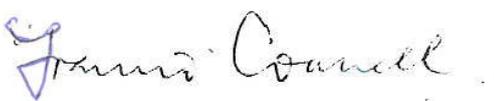
Any staff member, Board of Management member parent / guardian of a current student, may request a review at any time, and such a request will be dealt with as soon as possible.

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: August 2023

Signed: 

(Principal)

Signed: 

(Chairperson B.o.M.)