

Scoil Naomh Iosaf Code of Behaviour Policy

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Guiding Principles:

In Scoil Naomh Iosaf we expect a high standard of behaviour from the entire school community.

Every member of staff has a role to play in the implementation of the Code of Behaviour. Rules are kept to a minimum, they emphasise positive behaviour and are applied in a fair and consistent manner, with due regard to the age of the pupils and to differing abilities. Good behaviour is always encouraged.

Aims and Objectives of the Code:

- 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 provide guidance for pupils, teachers and parents on behavioural expectations.
- To enable teachers to teach without disruption.
- To provide for the effective and safe operation of the school.

Scoil Naomh Iosaf School Rules :

Attendance and Punctuality

Parents are reminded that the school does not accept responsibility for pupils before official opening times and after official closing times:

- Pupils should be in school every day of the year unless unable to do so due to ill health or exceptional family circumstances. A written communication from parents will be required following any absence from school.
- Junior and Senior Infants are expected to be in their classroom by 9.00 a.m. Supervision is provided from 8.40 a.m.
- All other pupils are required to line up in an orderly fashion outside the school gates until they are admitted to the yard at 8.40 a.m. at which time they will be supervised until 8.55 a.m. At this time pupils will assemble in the yard to allow for a 9 a.m. start.

- Infant classes finish at 1.40 p.m. All other classes finish at 2.40 p.m.

The exception to this is where pupils are engaged in extra-curricular activities organised by the school and approved by the Board of Management. Pupils involved in such activities are expected to behave in accordance with school behaviour policy during these times.

General Behaviour

- Pupils are expected to pay attention in class, to obey the instructions of the teacher and complete to the best of their ability all school work and homework.
- Pupils are expected to show courtesy and respect to each other and to the adults who work with them each day.
- Everybody is expected to speak in a respectful, polite manner. Positive, affirming communication will be encouraged and acknowledged.
- Bad language, name calling and hurtful, inappropriate comments are not acceptable.
- Pupils are not permitted to have a mobile phone or other social media devices during school time or while on the school premises/grounds. Should a pupil need a phone after school, an explanatory note from the child's parent must be given to the class teacher, the phone must be handed to the teacher for safe keeping in the teacher's desk at 9am for the duration of the school day. It is the pupil's responsibility to collect the phone from the teacher at the end of the day. Pupils, who do not hand up their phones as outlined, will have their phone removed and their parents will be asked to collect the phone from the office.

Uniform

Infant classes are expected to wear school tracksuit. Children from 1st to 6th class wear their full school uniform with black shoes every day except for days set by the class teacher when school tracksuits are to be worn.

In the interest of health and safety, stud earrings and watches are the only jewellery allowed.

A high standard of personal hygiene and general appearance is expected. Dyed, gelled or shaved hair is not allowed.

Should the school be notified regarding head lice in a classroom:-

All the parents of that class will be informed.

You will be asked to check your child's hair and to take the appropriate action if necessary.

It is school policy that children with long hair should have it tied up as it is more hygienic.

Care of Property

- Pupils should respect all school property and the property of other pupils.
- Pupils should not litter any school area.

Lunches

- In accordance with our Healthy Eating Policy, students are expected to bring a healthy lunch. A treat is allowed on a Friday.
- Chewing gum fizzy drinks and crisps are not allowed.
- In the interest of Health and Safety, hot drinks are not allowed, **nuts and nut products are prohibited** in all classes from Junior Infants to Sixth, as we have a number of pupils with serious nut allergies.
- As part of our Green Schools Initiative, lunch waste is to be brought home.

Pupil Safety

- In the interest of safety, pupils must walk while in the school building.
- Particular care must be taken on the stairs. Handrails must be held at all times.
- On wet days, children remain in their classroom during lunch-time. They must remain seated for the duration of the lunch break. Children must ask permission from the supervising teacher to use the bathroom. On wet mornings the same rules will apply.
- Under no circumstances can pupils leave the school grounds during the school day without appropriate permission.
- All visitors must report to reception on entering the school. Visitors wear an identifying badge for the duration of their visit and sign out on leaving.
- Parents collecting children for any reason during the school day must sign the child out at the office, before leaving the school and sign back in, on return.
- Children are not allowed to leave their designated yard area under any circumstances without the permission of the supervising teacher.

Affirming Positive Behaviour:

We believe that good behaviour should be rewarded. Positive reinforcement of good behaviour leads to better self-discipline and we place a greater emphasis on rewards and incentives rather than on sanctions.

Strategies/Incentives:

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment on a child's exercise book.
- A visit to another class or Principal for commendation.
- A word of praise in front of class group.
- Awarding a homework pass.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- Written or verbal communication with parent.
- Individual class merit awards, award stamps/ points chart.

Responding to Misbehaviour

Examples of Minor Misbehaviour:

In the classroom:

- Interrupting class work. Arriving late for class. Leaving seat without permission. Not completing homework without good reason. Not wearing correct uniform.

In the yard:

- Talking in line. Rough play. Name calling.

In the school:

- Running in school building. Leaving litter in the building or grounds.
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Examples of Serious Misbehaviour:

- Ongoing repeated minor misbehaviour.
- Telling lies. Stealing. Damaging other pupil's property. Any form of bullying. Back answering a teacher or Special Needs Assistant (SNA). Leaving school premises during the school day without appropriate permission. Fighting. Deliberately injuring another pupil. Using unacceptable language and making inappropriate

comments.

Examples of Gross Misbehaviour:

- Serious assault of another pupil.
- Verbal abuse or assault of a teacher, SNA or other member of staff.
- Willful serious damage to school property or property of pupils, SNAs or teachers.

The Principal in conjunction with the teacher will decide whether an incident is Gross Misbehaviour or not after carefully evaluating the facts and circumstances pertaining to the incident.

Responding to Misbehaviour, A Ladder of Intervention:

The purpose of sanctions is to discourage misbehaviour. Sanctions will be applied according to the gravity of the misbehaviour, with due regard to age, ability and emotional development of the child. These may include

- Reasoning with pupil.
- Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve, for example, classroom based intervention such as circle time or class meeting.
- Temporary separation from peers within class and/or temporary removal to another class.
- Prescribing extra work.
- Completing Our 'Rialacha Clóis' Work sheet.
- Completing Our Reflection Sheet.
- Loss of privileges. (Pupils will not be deprived of engagement in a curricular area except on the grounds of health/ safety.)
- Detention during break or after school hours.
- Communication with parents. (Verbal or written, including notes in journal).
- Referral to Principal.
- Principal communicating with parents.
- Exclusion (Suspension or Expulsion) from school (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by relevant circulars and The Education Welfare Act 2000).

Bullying:

Please refer to our school's Anti-Bullying Policy

Appendix 1

Suspension/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. The pupil and their parents will be fully informed about an allegation and the processes that will be used to investigate and decide the matter and will be given an opportunity to respond to an allegation before a decision is made and before serious sanction is imposed.

Suspension

For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension may be considered. The authority for suspension rests with the Principal. The decision to suspend a pupil requires serious grounds such as that:-

- The pupil's behaviour has had a serious detrimental effect on the education of other pupils
- The pupil's continued presence in the school at this time constitutes a threat to safety
- The pupil is responsible for serious damage to property

A single incident of serious misconduct may be grounds for suspension.

In making a decision to suspend due consideration must be given to the nature and seriousness of the behaviour, the context of the behaviour, the impact of the behaviour the interventions tried to date, whether suspension is a proportionate response and the possible impact of suspension. In certain circumstances immediate suspension may be warranted for reasons of student or staff safety and if this happens the formal investigation should take place immediately after the suspension.

An appeal to the BOM can be made on the decision of the principal to suspend a pupil.

Expulsion

Authority to expel rests with the Board of Management

Grounds for expulsion must be serious such as a pupil's behaviour being a cause of

significant disruption to the learning of others or to the teaching process, or where the continued presence of the pupil in the school represents a real and significant threat to safety, or where the pupil has been responsible for serious damage to property.

Prior to considering this option (other than in exceptional emergency circumstances) every effort must be made in conjunction with the parents to assist the pupil in resolving behavioural issues including bringing in external resources if appropriate.

Prior to exercising this option the principal must conduct or cause to be conducted a full investigation and arising out of same make a recommendation to the Board of Management on the appropriate course of action. If the board, on a review of all materials believe there are grounds to consider expelling a student then a hearing must take place and the parents must be invited to attend this meeting to hear the case against the pupil and have a right of reply to same.

If the board makes a decision to expel then the matter must be referred to the appropriate Education Welfare Officer in accordance with the Education (Welfare) Act 2000.

Confirmation of the decision to expel may be given by the board if appropriate no earlier than 20 days after the said notification.

An appeal in these circumstances goes to the Secretary of the Department of Education and Science in accordance with the Education Acts.

Ratification and Communication

This policy is available on the school website and all new applicants are informed as part of the application process. It was first ratified by the Board of Management in June 2014 and is reviewed as necessary.