

Scoil Mhuire Taghmon



Taghmon, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. N91 FP46
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Code of Behaviour

1. Aims:

- a) In devising the code, consideration has to be given to the particular needs and circumstances of this school. The aim is to create an ordered and orderly environment in which pupils can, through developing self-discipline, feel secure and make progress in all aspects of their development.
- b) Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school.

2. Principles:

- a) The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to tolerate these differences.
- b) 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, parents and pupils.
- c) Every effort will be made to ensure that the code of behaviour is implemented in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner.

3. Additional Supports

Some children may require assistance in understanding and respecting certain rules. Additional inputs and interventions may also be required to help some pupils manage their behaviour and prevent them from failing educationally. Such interventions may include:

- Referral to another teacher, SNA who can work with the pupil.
- Individual recording and analysis of behaviour – see template in shared Google Drive Folder.
- Individual positive behaviour support plans devised in consultation with parents, class teacher, SET, SEN class teacher, SNA. Targets will be set for the pupil and monitored in a supportive way.

A small minority of pupils may exhibit particularly challenging behaviour. In addition, we acknowledge that challenging behaviour might occur more frequently in pupils who present with additional educational needs. In these cases, reasonable accommodations will be made through individual positive behaviour plans to support the pupil. External services may include NEPS, NCSE, CAMHS, relevant clinicians from HSE/CDNT, TUSLA and the SENO.

Should serious challenging behaviour continue to pose a threat to the health and safety of pupils or staff, the school reserves the right to follow the procedures set out in the Code of Behaviour.

Scoil Mhuire National School, Taghmon is a 'bully-free' zone.

Golden Rules

These are our golden rules:

- We are gentle – we don't hurt others
- We are kind and helpful – we don't hurt anybody's feelings
- We listen – we don't interrupt
- We are honest – we don't cover up the truth
- We work hard – we don't waste our own or other's time
- We look after property – we don't waste or damage things

Clár ama na Scoile

School begins: 9.00 a.m.

School Closes: Junior Infants 1.40 p.m.

Senior Infants 1.40 p.m.

Other Classes 2.40 p.m.

Homework

It is the policy of the school to assign homework on a regular basis. Parents are strongly advised to take an active interest in their child's homework and to sign their Homework Journal each night (ensuring that it is done).

Strategies

Strategies used in the code of behaviour are based on praise and sanctions.

(a) Praise may be given by means of any one of the following:

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval
- A comment in a pupil's exercise book
- A visit to another member of Staff or to the Principal for commendation.
- A word of praise in front of a group or class.
- A system of merit marks.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- A mention to parent, written or verbal communication.

(b) Disapproval of unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with as follows:

(The nature of the behaviour will determine the strategy)

- Reasoning with pupils
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
- Prescribing extra work.
- Communication with Parents.
- Temporary separation from peers and/or loss of privileges.
- Referral to Principal/Deputy-Principal.
- Note to parents
- Suspension/expulsion (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular 7/88).

Procedures:

The degree of misconduct i.e. minor, serious or gross, will be judged by the teachers and/or Principal based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity/frequency of such misconduct, as follows:

Examples of minor misconduct:

Interrupting class work
Running in school building
Leaving litter around school
Being discourteous/unmannerly
Not completing homework without good reason
Not having homework signed by a parent
Endangering self/fellow pupils in the school yard at break time.
Spitting

Examples of steps to be taken by teachers when dealing with minor misconduct:

Verbal reprimand / reasoning with pupil
Noting instance of yard misbehaviour in yard book.

Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with regular occurrences of minor misconduct

Phase 1 (within the classroom)

Communication with parent/guardian.
Temporary separation from peers.
Sending to another teacher.
Denial of participation in some class activity.

[Misbehaviour in yard consists of any action that puts the safety of self/other pupil at risk]

Phase 2:

- 1) Send to Principal or Deputy Principal.
- 2) Class teacher meets one/both parent/guardians.
- 3) Principal/D-Principal meets one/both parents concerning behaviour.

Examples of serious misconduct

Constantly disruptive in class

Telling lies
Stealing
Damaging other pupil's property
Bullying
Answering back a teacher
Having a phone in school without agreed permission.
Leaving school premises during school day without appropriate permission.
Using unacceptable language
Deliberately injuring another person.

Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with serious misdemeanours:

- 1) Sent to Principal or Deputy Principal.
- 2) Principal meets with parent/guardians.
- 3) Behaviour log put in place to be signed by Principal each day

Examples of Gross Misconduct

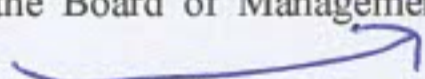
Setting fire to school property
Deliberately leaving taps/fire hose turned on
Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher/pupil.
Bringing weapons to school.
Use of phone in school.

If a behaviour from serious misconduct list is not improving, this behaviour may become a gross misconduct, at the discretion of the teaching staff and Principal.

Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with gross misconduct

- 1) Chairperson/Principal to sanction immediate suspension pending discussion with parents
- 2) Expulsion will be considered in an extreme case in accordance with Rule 130 (6) i.e. "No pupil can be struck off the rolls for breaches of discipline without prior consent of patron and until alternative arrangements are made for enrolment of pupil at another suitable school in the locality".

It should be noted that these lists consist of examples only: It is not meant to be a totally comprehensive list of misdemeanours and procedural steps.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on _____. It will be reviewed on 02/12/25 

Chairperson: Declan Smith P.P.

Principal: Hannah Manótt.