



Code of Positive Behaviour Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgan

Approved by the Board of Management, Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgan

Date: 25/04/2024

This Code of Positive of Behaviour policy has been prepared in accordance with the Guidelines of the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB), as provided for in the Education Act 2000, Section 23.

It has been prepared in consultation with the parents, students and staff of Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgan and its Board of Management.

It will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and can be amended after consultation with the school community.

It is made available to all interested parties of the school.

Signed : 

Date: 25/04/2024

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed : 

Date: 25/04/2024

Deputy Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgan, Robin House, Na Rampair, Dún Dealgan, Co. Lú. A91XC59 Fón 042 6042152

www.gcdd.ie [Twitter/X](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

Scoil de chuid Choláiste Ghlór na Mara



Introduction

Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgán is an Irish-medium co-educational, multi-denominational, multi-cultural post-primary school established in 2023. It is under the patronage of An Foras Pátrúnachta whose objective is the provision of Irish-medium education of the highest standard. It is a satellite school of Coláiste Ghlór na Mara, Balbriggan Co. Dublin.

Mission Statement

Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgán is a multi-denominational, multi-cultural and co-educational Irish-medium college which welcomes all students. As a Gaelcholáiste, Irish is at the centre of our mission. Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgán provides high quality education supporting the educational development and the personal development of students in a positive encouraging atmosphere.

Values

Our main values are **Respect** and **Learning Together**. The school community works together daily to achieve these values.

Our Code of Positive Behaviour aims to:

- promote 'meas' (respect) in every aspect of school life
- encourage students to take responsibility for their learning and work to their full potential
- illustrate how the school addresses any breaches of the Code of Positive Behaviour from the point of view of students and staff
- show the steps taken where examples of unacceptable behaviour occur
- create a safe, healthy learning environment for all.

This Code of Positive Behaviour should be read in conjunction with our Anti-Bullying Policy. All students must adhere to the Code of Positive Behaviour while at school, travelling to and from school, on school tours or any school related events or occasions. The wellbeing, health, and safety of all students and staff is of the utmost importance.



1. Meas (Respect)

Students are expected to treat themselves, fellow students, members of staff and visitors with respect. Students are expected to follow the instructions of staff in school and outside of school. Students should show respect and appropriate behaviour before class, during class, after class, during breaks and lunch times, on school tours and/or any school related events or occasions. Students are expected to show respect don Ghaeilge and the school environment. If a student damages any part of the school building, facilities or school equipment, they will be required to pay for the cost of repair or replacement.

2. An Ghaeilge

Irish is the language of communication and teaching in Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgán. Irish is to be spoken at all times except in English class and in the Modern Foreign Language classes. Irish is to be spoken on school tours, school events and activities. Any breach of Riail na Gaeilge is taken very seriously.

3. Attendance

Students are required to attend school as per the school calendar and to attend each class during the school day. Good attendance contributes to a positive learning environment for all. Good attendance is essential for students to reach their full potential.

Parents/guardians must inform the school of any absences via email or text to the Deputy Principal (Educational Welfare Act 2000, Article 18), where possible this should be done before 09:30 on the day of absence. It is the responsibility of the Principal to inform the Educational Welfare Officer of any student who misses 20 days or more in any school year. The absence is recorded on the school web-based management system (Compass) by the Tutor or Deputy Principal. Students are not permitted to leave the school during school hours without permission. Parents/Guardians must inform the Deputy Principal via email or text when a student is required to leave school early. Students must sign out at the secretary's office upon departure. This will be recorded on Compass.



Punctuality

Good punctuality is a skill for life and is important for teaching and learning. Poor punctuality disrupts the learning of other students and will be recorded on Compass.

Students are required to be on time each morning, to be present and on time for all classes on the timetable. Any student arriving late must sign in at the secretary's office.

5. School Uniform

The school uniform plays an important role in fostering positive behaviour, recognition and school pride. The school uniform is a strong symbol of our learning community and therefore should be kept tidy.

It is essential that students maintain a high standard of personal appearance when wearing school uniform. The owner's name must be clearly marked on each item of the uniform.

The Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgan uniform consists of:

- red school jumper with school crest
- white shirt
- grey trousers
- grey skirt (knee length at least)
- grey socks or tights
- black shoes, these shoes must be fully black (including laces and soles), runners or boots are not allowed (see Appendix A)
- red school jacket with school crest.

The school jumper and school jacket are available from [McFaddens](#) Balbriggan (01) 841 3891.

The PE uniform for Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgan consists of:

- red/navy GCDD hoodie/jumper/half zip
- navy GCDD tracksuit bottoms
- red/navy GCDD t-shirt.

Appropriate sports running shoes must be worn on PE days.

The PE uniforms can be purchased on the [O'Neill's](#) site.



Students are permitted to wear the PE uniform on days when they have PE or when permission is granted by the school.

For health and safety reasons, students may be asked to remove jewellery in PE, Science and practical classes.

6. Homework and School Diary

Students are expected to do their homework and present it in class when the next class arises. Students who do not have homework completed will be given a warning. Any instances thereafter will be recorded on Compass (more details can be found in the GCDD Homework Policy).

The school diary is a record of homework and is used as a source of information for students and parents/guardians. It is the student's responsibility to write down the homework for each day and to keep the diary neat and tidy. Students are required to have their diary with them in class and to have it ready for inspection at any time. Parents/guardians should sign the school diary each week. If the school diary is not signed it will be noted on Compass. If a student loses the school diary they are required to purchase a new GCDD school diary.

7. Lockers

Students are permitted to use their lockers before school, at break times, at lunch times and at the end of the school day. Students may only access lockers during class with the permission of the class teacher. The lockers must be kept organised, neat and tidy. Lockers remain under the ownership and management of the school and the school management reserves the right to open or inspect any locker at any time if they believe there is a reason for inspection. It is the student's responsibility to keep lockers locked and keep the key safe.



8. Behaviour in Class

Students should show respect and appropriate behaviour in class. Staff and students work together to create a safe and positive learning environment for all in the classroom. Students must have all required books and equipment with them for class and participate fully in class activities. Classrooms are to be kept clean and tidy. For health and safety reasons, eating is only permitted in Spás an Scoláire. Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgan promotes good nutrition and healthy foods on the school premises.

Students must adhere to all safety rules in the various rooms and areas of learning. Bullying is not accepted (see GCDD Anti-Bullying Policy).

9. Personal Health and Safety

Every student and staff member has a right to learn and work in an environment that is safe, free from bullying, intimidation and harassment. Irresponsible behaviour or anti-social behaviour will not be accepted (see GCDD Anti-Bullying Policy).

Drugs, alcohol, cigarettes (including vapes) are strictly prohibited in school. This includes the use of, sale/supply of, being in possession of, being under the influence of these substances on school grounds, school tours, school events and activities or while the student is wearing the school uniform.

Students are prohibited from possessing weapons, using weapons, and taking any weapons to school that could harm any member of the school community. Any student who does not adhere to the above will be suspended immediately and may be expelled.

10. iPads, Mobile Phones and other Electronic Devices

It is essential that each student has a school iPad. When students arrive at school, their iPads must be charged to at least 90% so that students can access schoolwork throughout the day. All iPads must be connected to the school Jamf system (see GCDD Acceptable Use Policy for more information).



The use of mobile phones is not permitted in the school and mobile phones should be switched off and stored in the student's locker at all times. If a phone is seen or heard the teacher or Deputy Principal has the right to take the phone from the student.

First time: phone is confiscated, recorded on Compass, a parent/guardian is notified and phone is returned to student at the end of the school day.

Second time: phone is confiscated, recorded on Compass with minus points, a parent/guardian is notified and phone is returned to student at the end of the school day.

Third time: phone is confiscated, recorded on Compass with minus points, a parent/guardian is notified, meeting with a parent/guardian and Deputy Principal and phone is returned.

Students are strictly prohibited from using smart watches, listening devices or any other electronic device during or in between classes. The school does not accept any responsibility for such property while on school grounds or out on school outings.

11. CCTV

The school will record any request for CCTV footage/images from An Garda Síochána and legal advice may be sought on foot of any such requests. Public areas will be monitored by CCTV in a manner consistent with all current policies adopted by the Board of Management including provisions set out in other Equality and Education legislation.



The roles and responsibilities of each member of the school community in the implementation of the Code of Positive Behaviour are outlined below.

Students will promote positive behaviour by:

- treating students, staff, visitors, An Ghaeilge and the school environment with respect.
- helping to promote a positive learning environment in lessons
- trying their best to always reach their full potential (attendance and punctuality included)
- understanding and following the Code of Positive Behaviour.

Parents/Guardians will promote positive student behaviour by:

- creating a respectful relationship with the school community
- supporting the school staff in implementing the school Code of Positive Behaviour to create a safe and positive learning environment
- informing the school if they have any worries about any issues that they feel may affect students' progress in school
- ensuring that they have read and discussed school policies with the student.

Staff will promote positive student behaviour by:

- creating a respectful relationship between students, parents/guardians and school staff
- implementing and promoting the school Code of Positive Behaviour in a fair, effective, and helpful way
- implementing a broad range of suitable teaching methodologies to help every student to reach their full potential
- supporting students with an effective pastoral care and through the SPHE programme
- offering support through psychological support services.



Promoting Positive Behaviour

The quality of the relationship between teacher and student is one of the most powerful and important influences on positive behaviour. Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgan recognises the importance of recognising and praising students who contribute positively to school life.

This is done in various ways:

- welcoming students into class
- showing interest in students' lives and listening to them
- praise and words of encouragement
- effective feedback in students' copybooks, diaries and school reports
- students work exhibited on the walls and in classrooms
- recognition on Compass
- recognition of student achievements on school website and social media
- recognition given to students at the end of the week/month/term.

The above list is not exhaustive.



School Code of Behaviour

The school recognises that there are situations where students do not follow the school's Code of Positive Behaviour. In these cases, the steps below will be followed to help the students reflect on what has happened and support them to be more responsible in the future. Examples of behaviours are mentioned below, please note this list is not exhaustive.

Level 0	
Every morning we expect:	Under the care of the tutor/class teacher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • full school uniform • iPad present and charged (90% at least) • diary and school material present and prepared • to be in school on time • mobile phones switched off and in the locker • homework completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • record on Compass • a supportive conversation with the tutor/class teacher.

Level 1	
Examples of Level 1 behaviour	Under the care of the tutor/class teacher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speaking in English • incorrect school uniform • without proper equipment • unsatisfactory homework • disruption to teaching and learning • failure to follow teachers' instructions • late for class • lack of class participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • record on Compass • a supportive conversation with the tutor/class teacher • classroom management methods that support positive behaviour • reminders about school rules • praise when student behaviour improves • change in seating plan.



Level 2	
Examples of Level 2 behaviour	Under the care of the tutor/class teacher and Deputy Principal
<p>Continued behaviour from level 1 with a report from tutor/class teacher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being disrespectful • in a prohibited area • rough play • iPad abuse • vandalism • *serious incident* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • record on Compass • a serious conversation about school rules • contact with parents/guardians • detention • *report to be written and sent to the Deputy Principal*

Level 3	
Examples of Level 3 behaviour	Under the care of the Deputy Principal and Board of Management
<p>Repeated behaviour from Level 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serious acts of vandalism to student/teacher property, school equipment/building/grounds • act of physical violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • record on Compass • contact with parents/guardians and that they are made aware of the issue • meeting with student and parents/guardians • behaviour report and contract • mentoring programme • suspension.



Level 4	
Examples of Level 4 behaviours 4	Under the care of the Board of Management
Repeated behaviour from Level 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical attack • alcohol, cigarettes, vapes, drugs, weapons etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meeting with the sub-committee of the Board of Management and/or Board of Management.

Positive Points

Positive behaviour will be recognised on Compass (Student Chronicle). Teachers and class tutors may also note this in the student's school diary.

10 points: recognition e.g. certificate home

25 points: recognition e.g. stationery

50 points: recognition e.g. lucky dip

100 points: recognition e.g. voucher

Negative Points

3 negative entries in one week – half an hour detention after school on Wednesday

5 negative entries in one week – 1 hour detention after school on Wednesday

Misuse of iPad

For the first time: Recorded on Compass and a warning from the class teacher.

For the second time: Recorded on Compass, contact with parents/guardians.

For the third time: Recorded on Compass, meeting with parents/guardians and Deputy Principal.

Photographs or recording of students or staff without permission– Suspension.



Punctuality

Good punctuality is recognised e.g. Seachtain Órga.

Students who are late in the morning will be given a warning. Any instances thereafter will be recorded on Compass. In exceptional circumstances when a student is late the parent/guardian should make contact with the school.

Suspension

- Suspension gives the school an opportunity to set behaviour targets with the student and parents/guardians.
- Suspension gives school staff the opportunity to create a behaviour plan for the student.
- Suspension gives the school an opportunity to satisfy the student and parents/guardians of the seriousness of the level of behaviour.

Success Criteria

We will recognise the success of this policy if:

- it encourages positive behaviour across the school and it creates a healthy and positive atmosphere conducive to effective teaching and learning
- it creates an understanding of the importance of respect for all
- the school community understand and accept the policy.

Review and Evaluation of this Policy

The Code of Positive Behaviour will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and can be amended after consultation with the school community.

Declaration of Acceptance of Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgan's Code of Positive Behaviour

I have read and I agree with Gaelcholáiste Dhún Dealgan's Code of Positive Behaviour.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Student Signature

Appendix A:

Examples of black shoes which are allowed:	Examples of black shoes which are not allowed:
<p>A collection of black shoes that are allowed, including various styles of sneakers, loafers, and dress shoes.</p>	<p>A collection of black shoes that are not allowed, including sneakers with white accents, Converse sneakers, and boots.</p>