



Lwethb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
an Longfoirt agus na hIarmhí
Longford and Westmeath
Education and Training Board

Coláiste Pobail an Mhuilinn Chearr
Mullingar Community College



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MULLINGAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Detention Policy

Mission Statement:

In Mullingar Community College our Mission is to provide an educational environment that will enable each pupil to develop his/her potential academically, physically, socially and spiritually. We strive to develop and maintain a safe, supportive and caring school which seeks to provide the best opportunities for everyone to develop his or her potential to the full. Everyone in Mullingar Community College is a valued member of the school community and diversity is a valued part of the school culture.

Rationale:

The purpose of Detention, also known as *Reflection Time*, is to provide students with an opportunity to reflect on their behaviour and to understand the consequences of their actions. Mullingar Community College aims to create a positive learning environment where every student is valued and respected and an environment in which positive behaviour is promoted and celebrated. In this regard, Reflection Time will be used as a tool to promote positive behaviour and personal responsibility among students. All students who partake in Reflection Time will partake in a Restorative Practice conversation with the relevant staff members. Through this, we hope that students will understand the importance of reflection time and use it as an opportunity to learn from their mistakes and become better members of the school community.

Break and Lunchtime Reflection:

Break and Lunchtime Reflection will take place in a designated room, and students must report here immediately at break times where they will be provided with their lunch. During this time, students will reflect on their behaviour and the reasons for their Reflection Time. They will be given the opportunity to discuss their behaviour with a member of staff and identify strategies to avoid similar situations in the future. Students will also be encouraged to use this time to catch up on missed work or complete homework. Students who fail to attend for break and/or lunchtime Reflection will face further consequences, which may include further break and/or lunchtime Reflection and/or Internal suspension and/or suspension.

After-School Reflection:

After-School Reflection will take place in a designated room immediately after school, on a designated day that will be communicated to the student and parent/guardian. During this time, students will reflect on their behaviour and the reasons for their Reflection Time. They will be given the opportunity to discuss their behaviour with a member of staff and identify strategies to avoid similar situations in the future. Students will also be expected to use this time to catch up on missed work or complete homework.

Failure to Complete an After-School Reflection.

Failure to complete an After-School Reflection, without prior parental notice will result in Lunchtime detentions until the afterschool is completed. For example, a student who fails to attend an After-School Reflection will need to complete lunchtime reflection their next day in school and afterschool detention that evening.. If a student fails to complete the increased sanction, they will face further consequences, which may include further After-School Reflection time being assigned and/or Internal Reflection and/or suspension.

Deferred Reflection Time:

If a parent requests a deferred Reflection Time for their child, they must provide an alternative date for this to be completed within the following five (5) School Days. Failure to do so will result in the need for the student to complete Lunchtime reflection until the Afterschool reflection is completed. A deferred After-School Reflection may be granted in exceptional circumstances. However, the school reserves the right to deny a deferred detention if it is not deemed appropriate. Deferral of Reflection Time will only be considered when advance notice is provided by parents/guardians via school personnel.

Internal Reflection Time:

To account for misbehaviours that disrupts the teaching and learning environment for students and/or staff; Internal Reflection Time may be assigned. This can be instantaneous to ensure no continued disruption to teaching and learning; can be assigned for the entirety of the school day or a portion of the school day depending on the severity of the behaviour exhibited. Students will meet with the Year Head and/or Deputy Principal and/or Principal, and other relevant support personnel (HSCL; Guidance Counsellor; BFL Coordinator) to discuss and review their misbehaviour and to help identify strategies to avoid similar situations in the future. Work will always be assigned by class teachers for Internal Reflection Time. Failure to adhere to the rules and routines of Internal Reflection Time; namely completing all assigned work and working as instructed by the supervising personnel; will result in additional sanctions being imposed as per the school's Code of Positive Behaviour.

Implementation:

This policy will be implemented by the Board of Management of Mullingar Community College. The Board of Management have the right to make the final decision regarding the interpretation and application of the policy.

Ratification and Review:

This policy was accepted and ratified by the Board of Management of Mullingar Community College on 12/06/2025.

This policy will be made available to all school personnel, published on the school website and provided to the Parents Association. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department of Education and Skills and to Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB) if requested.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year. Ongoing reviews and evaluation take cognisance of changing information, changing society, legislation, ministerial/government instructions, developments in the school-based programmes and feedback from students, staff, parents/guardians and the Board of Management/ETB

Signed: _____
(Chairperson, Board of Management)

Signed: _____
(Principal)