



## **Code of Conduct**

Principal: Fionnguala McCotter

Chairperson: Alden Henderson

Date of Last Review: May 2019

Date of Next Review: May 2021



## Code of Conduct

(Scoil / Naíscoil an Droichid)

### **INTRODUCTION**

This Code of Conduct is intended as a guide and a help to all school staff. It sets out standards of conduct which staff are expected to follow when within, or representing the School. This code is not exhaustive but is written to assist staff and it is important that staff should take advice and guidance if necessary.

The underlying purpose is to ensure that Scoil an Droichid provides a high quality service to its pupils and stakeholders in accordance with our Mission Statement and to promote public confidence in the integrity of the School. It takes in the requirements of the law and attempts to define the required levels of professionalism to ensure the well-being of the School, its staff and its customers. It has been drafted to comply with School Policies and Procedures

Staff are requested to read this Code carefully and consider the issues which it raises. The Principal should also ensure that all staff are aware of the Code's contents and are fully briefed on its implications. Reference to this Code will be made in all contacts of employment, and copies will be given to all staff. In addition, the induction programme for all new staff will reinforce the principles of this Code. Investigations of alleged breaches of this Code will be covered under the School's Disciplinary procedures and related codes of practice.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Staff's off-duty hours are their personal concern, but they should avoid a position where duty and private interests conflict. This includes:

- Staff members making online associations/friendships with current pupils via social networking sites such as Facebook, should be aware of the e-Safety Policy
- Staff members using texting/email facilities on either their mobile phone or PC/Mac to communicate with current pupils should be aware of the appropriate Code of Conduct
- Scoil an Droichid does not seek to preclude staff unreasonably from undertaking additional employment, but Staff are required to devote their full time, attention and abilities to their duties during working hours and to act in the best interests of the School at all times. Accordingly, they must not, without the written consent of the Board of Governors, undertake any employment or engagement which might interfere with the performance of their duties or conflict with the interests of the School. It follows that, regardless of whether you are employed on a full-time or fractional contract, you are required to notify the Principal of any employment or engagement which you intend to undertake whilst in the employment of the School. (Including any such employment or engagement which commenced before employment began with the School).

## SPECIFIC ASPECTS

**Discrimination:** Staff must at all times observe the School's Equal Opportunities Policies for staff and pupils and treat pupils, parents and other stakeholders in accordance with those policies.

**Health and Safety:** Staff must take care of their personal hygiene, safety and welfare, and that of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions. All staff must comply with the requirements of the School Health and Safety policy and relevant legislation and regulations, and also ensure that pupils do likewise.

**Fire:** Staff must familiarise themselves with the fire precautions, procedures and drill routines. They must regard practice fire drills or building evacuations in a positive manner, and ensure they are perceived by pupils as an essential precaution to prevent risk of injury or fatality.

**Business Practice:** Staff must maintain an impeccable standard of integrity in all their professional relationships.

**Media:** Other than on matters of publicity, only the Principal or Chair of BoG is authorised to speak or send any communication on behalf of the School to members of

the press or broadcast media. This decision is to avoid any embarrassment or unfair pressure on staff. This authorisation may be extended by the Principal to other staff members.

**Copyright:** Staff shall observe copyright laws on computer software, audio-visual and printed material.

**Data Protection Act:** It is the responsibility of all employees to ensure the School's compliance with the Data Protection Act. Personal data must only be used to assist you to carry out your work; it must not be given to people who have no right to see it. All staff should maintain the security of all computerised databases of information on individuals, whether they are staff, pupils or members of the general public. Staff should refer any queries to the Principal.

### **GENERAL POINTS**

- Staff should display the highest possible standards of professional behaviour that is required in an educational establishment see Appendix 1
- Staff should seek to co-operate with their colleagues, providing support, help and guidance as required by them and their line manager, and enable effective communication throughout the School.
- Staff should not use their position in the School for private advantage or gain.
- Staff should avoid words and deeds that might bring the School into disrepute or might undermine colleagues in the perception of others (staff/pupils/parents/community).
- Staff should retain professional independent objectivity and not promote dogma or political bias to others in their working activities.
- Staff should be aware of, and should follow School policies systems and procedures. They should normally communicate through the line management structure, and should ensure pupils do likewise.
- Continuing professional development and support shall be provided by the School and, where appropriate and agreed, will be based on the objectives of the School Development Plan. Periodically, employees will be required to attend certain training activities.
- Staff must obtain permission from the Principal before taking pupils off the school premises.
- Staff must obtain permission from the Principal before arranging for any visitors to come into the school.
- Staff must obtain permission from the Principal before incurring any expenditure on behalf of the School.
- Staff should attend their place of work punctually in accordance with their conditions of service and at the times agreed with their line manager. Those unable to avoid being late must inform the Principal as soon as they can. If a member of staff is unable to

attend their work they must notify the Principal themselves so that alternative cover arrangements may be made.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES**

Teaching staff shall maintain and properly complete a register for all classes. The attendance register should be completed daily, using SIMS. See Attendance Policy

### **Physical Contact with Pupils**

- As a general principle, staff are advised not to make unnecessary physical contact with their pupils.
- It is unrealistic and unnecessary, however, to suggest staff should touch pupils only in emergencies. In particular, a distressed child, especially a younger child, may need reassurance involving physical comforting, as a caring parent would provide. Staff should not feel inhibited from providing this.
- Staff should never touch a child who has clearly indicated that he/she is, or would be, uncomfortable with such contact, unless it is necessary to protect the child, others or property from harm.
- Physical punishment is illegal, as is any form of physical response to misbehaviour, unless it is by way of necessary restraint.
- Staff, who have to administer first-aid to a pupil, should ensure wherever possible that this is done in the presence of other children or another adult. However, no member of staff should hesitate to provide first-aid in an emergency simply because another person is not present.
- Staff should be aware of the implications of the Intimate Care Policy
- Any physical contact which would be likely to be misinterpreted by the pupil, parent or other casual observer should be avoided.
- Following any incident where a member of staff feels that his/her actions have been, or may be, misconstrued, a written report of the incident should be submitted immediately to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection/Principal.
- Staff should be particularly careful when supervising pupils in a residential setting, or in approved out of school's activities, where more informal relationships tend to be usual and where staff may be in proximity to pupils in circumstances very different from the normal school/work environment.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR**

Professional behaviour is a generic term, but within this Code of Conduct includes such aspects as:

- acting in a fair, courteous and mature manner to pupils, colleagues and other stakeholders;
- co-operating and liaising with colleagues, as appropriate, to ensure pupils receive a coherent and comprehensive educational service;
- endeavouring to assist Scoil an Droichid achieve its whole school objectives – in particular, by adopting a positive attitude to marketing and the achievement of quality and equality;
- respect for School property;
- maintaining the image of the School through standards of dress, general courtesy, correct use of School stationery, etc.;
- taking responsibility for the behaviour and conduct of pupils in the classroom and sharing such responsibility elsewhere on the premises;
- being fit for work (i.e. not adversely influenced by drugs, etc.);
- being familiar with job requirements (e.g. proper preparation, use of suitable methods/systems, maintenance of appropriate/required records, etc.), including keeping up-to-date with developments relevant to the job.
- being familiar with communication channels and School procedures applicable to both pupils and staff;
- ensuring all assessments/exams/tests are conducted in a fair and proper (prescribed) manner, and that procedures are strictly followed with respect to confidentiality and security;
- respect for the rights and opinions of others.

**This list is not exhaustive but the examples are given as a summary**