



St. Kevin's Junior National School

Newbrook Avenue, Donaghmede, Dublin 13.

Code of Behaviour



Code of Behaviour

Introductory Statement:

This Code of Behaviour was formulated in September, 2017 by the staff and Board of Management of St. Kevin's Junior School.

This code should be read in conjunction with other relevant policies (Health and safety, Anti-Bullying etc.) and with the school information booklet.

It was implemented in September 2017 and will be reviewed annually or when the need arises. Copies of this document will be given to each member of staff, each member of the Board of Management and a copy is available on our website for parents and our school community to access.

Rationale:

According to DES circular 20/90, schools are required to have a Code of Behaviour. This code has been drawn up in accordance with DES and INTO guidelines. The existing Code of Behaviour was due for review as the school has grown and the demographics have changed. During the past three years our school has grown in size to over 216 pupils, an administrative principal, 10 teaching staff and 5 non-teaching staff. Our Principal, teaching and non-teaching staff support a Code of Behaviour that reflects our children and their needs as our school grows and develops.

Aims:

Our Code of Behaviour aims to:

- ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the school community
- assist parents, pupils and teachers in understanding the system of procedures that form part of the Code of Behaviour and seek their co-operation
- ensure that the system of rules, rewards and sanctions are implemented in a fair way.

Content:

1. The School Community:

Every effort will be made by all members of our school community (the staff, the parents, the children and those responsible for extra-curricular activities) to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in our school. We expect everyone to show kindness and courtesy in all their dealings with others.

2. The Staff:

The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the principal teacher. Each teacher has responsibility for maintenance of disciplines within his/her classroom, while sharing a common responsibility for good order in the school environment.



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3. The Parents:

As important members of the school community, parents are encouraged to support the school and their children by:

- making their children aware of the behaviour expected in the code and encouraging their children to abide by it.
- by consulting the Junior Infants information booklet for school policy on uniforms, routines, etc.
- ensuring that their child gives due time and effort to homework and by providing a suitable environment, free of distraction, to enable the children to give their best effort to their homework.
- actively engaging in discussions with members of staff on behavioural issues as necessary.
- visiting the school when requested to do so by the Principal or by another member of staff.

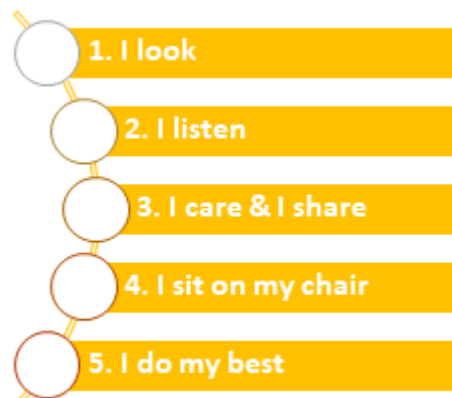
4. The Children:

In our school, we believe that no child is an outsider. Children are actively encouraged to help each other keep the school a pleasant and safe place to learn and grow by:

- being kind and thoughtful, listening and being respectful to others
- actively including all our children in school life
- positive playtime in the yard and in class
- showing courtesy to all children and all members of our staff
- promoting and displaying good listening skills
- practicing turn taking, caring and sharing with others

Children can help themselves by :

- promoting and displaying good listening skills in class and in the yard
- doing their work to the best of their ability at school and at home
- completing their work with due care and pride to the best of their ability
- following our 5 simple golden rules:



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In the yard our children can have fun and be safe by:

- staying in the yard
- playing and sharing yard activities with their classmates
- seeking help from school staff/yard buddies if they are upset
- Lining up when the school bell is rung
- Playing with their peers in the designated play area
- Playing with due care and attention of others

Around the school children can keep safe by:

- not leaving the classroom without the teacher's permission
- holding the banisters while walking slowly up or down the stairs
- not running inside
- walking with a partner while on a message to another class or to the office
- taking direction from school staff who provide close supervision of our children at all times.

On school tours children are encouraged to make out-of-school trips and activities a success by:

- following instructions given by teachers or supervising adults
- behaving well on public transport
- staying with the group at all times.

5. Yard Rules:

All children must go out to the yard at break and lunch time. The Principal Teacher, teaching and non teaching staff and our Board of Management support the rule that “*if a child is well enough to come to school they are well enough to go outside*” In exceptional cases a chair may be provided to a child who cannot participate in the yard.

All children are encouraged to:

- talk to the teacher/SNA on yard duty if there is a problem that needs attention
- play safely and fairly in the yard. Fighting, name calling, pushing, teasing or using bad language is not allowed.
- treat others with kindness and include them in your games
- never leave the yard without permission
- play ball carefully! Balls that go on the grass can only be retrieved by a **yard-buddy**, balls that go into the carpark must only be retrieved by a teacher/SNA. All yard equipment must be carried to and from the yard by **yard-buddies** only.
- bring their own clothing in from the yard
- pay attention to the bell at the end of yard-time. Children are asked to freeze on the first bell and on the second bell all children must walk to their line slowly and line-up quietly in single file (*see Appendix A for further details in relation to yard behaviours*).

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6. Respect for Property:

We encourage our children to take care of their own property, school resources and property and that of others by:

- keeping the playground, classrooms and school buildings clean and tidy
- tidying up after themselves and bringing home leftovers and wrappings from their lunch
- caring for our school furniture, class and yard equipment and toilets.
- refraining from taking school or property not belonging to themselves home.



7. Rewards:

St Kevin's Junior National School operates a reward system for good behaviour including:

- Positive feedback "catching the child being good"
- Stickers / certificates / Homework Pass / Pencils / Treats/ whole class celebrations etc.
- Classroom reward systems
- Celebration of positive action through sharing their action with another class teacher or in assembly
- Principal's award certificate
- Student of the week reward
- Group/Table of the week reward
- Golden Time on a Friday

8. Sanctions:

The following sanctions may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour:

- Chatting with pupils in relation to the negative behaviour with a focus on positive behaviours / expectations
- Verbal warning from a teacher
- Temporary separation from peers and friends within their classroom during all/part of a lesson
- Loss of privileges/Golden Time
- Exclusion of children from a selected activity if their behaviour during this activity poses a risk to themselves or others or causes upset.
- Temporary separation from peers and friends to another teacher/principal teacher for a full/part of a lesson.

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8. Sanctions *contd* ...

For a more serious incident or for repeated incidents of poor behaviour, the following may occur at the discretion of the teacher in consultation with the Principal Teacher:

- Participation in SALT Programme or a specific programme that addresses the child's individual issue.
- Targeted teaching which may include conflict resolution strategies, social stories, projects in relation to behaviour of concern, this could include in class or withdrawal support which may be individual/ group or whole class setting.
- An informal meeting between the teacher and the parents/guardians which may include the Principal.

For a **most serious incident** or when a pattern of poor behaviour persists, the following may occur at the discretion of the teacher in consultation with the Principal Teacher:

- A formal meeting between the teacher and the parents/guardians which may include the Principal Teacher
- Reporting incidents of a serious nature to the Board of Management
- Suspension/expulsion* from school for a period, agreed by the Board of Management.

Suspension:

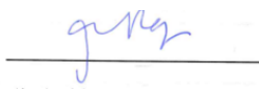

A pupil can be withdrawn from class on a temporary basis and put into another class if he or she is deemed to be a disruption to the progress of the other children in the class. In extreme cases, a parent may be called in, to take the child home for a short period until the teacher, with the cooperation of the parents and Principal Teacher, feels that the child is ready to resume work and the behavioural issues have been resolved.

Expulsion:

In extreme cases, or following suspension, and where there is no improvement in a child's behaviour, it may be necessary to expel a child from the school on a permanent basis.

Ratification of Policy:

This policy was circulated for discussion, comment and approval to all teaching and non-teaching staff members of St. Kevin's Junior School during our staff meeting on Monday 1st September 2025. It was ratified by the Board of Management during their next Board Meeting (following September 2025) for immediate implementation. This policy was posted on the website and placed on the School Notice Board for the School Community to see.

Signed:  Chairperson Date: 18/09/2025	Signed:  Principal Date 18/09/2025
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**This is in accordance with the National Education Welfare Board Guidelines and fulfills the school's obligations under Section 23 of the Education Welfare Act, 2000. If a Board of Management decides to expel a pupil, parents/guardians have a right of appeal of the Secretary General of the DES under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998*