

# **Saint Patrick's National School**

## **Code of Behaviour**

### Rationale

This policy was drawn up for the following reasons

1. To ensure an orderly, safe and secure environment for the whole school community
2. It is a requirement of the Department of Education and Skills
3. It is a requirement of the Education Welfare Act 2000 (Section 23(1)) which refers to the obligation on a school to produce a code of behaviour with specific reference to

- The standards of behaviour that shall be observed by all pupils attending the school
  - The enunciation of the importance the school community places on good behaviour.
  - To provide guidelines for members of the school community regarding the promotion of positive behaviour and dealing with inappropriate behaviour.
  - The promotion of an ethos of tolerance and respect of members of the school community and respect for school property
  - The measures that shall be taken when a student fails to observe or meet those standards
  - The procedures to be followed before a student may be suspended or expelled from the school
  - The grounds for removing of a suspension in relation to a student
  - The procedures to be followed in relation to a child's absence from school.
- To ensure an orderly, safe and secure climate for the whole school community.

This code was developed by the Board of Management of Saint Patrick's National School following consultation with the teachers, the parent's council and the general parent body of the school using the framework provided by the National Education Welfare Board "Developing a Code of Behaviour –Guidelines for Schools 2008.

We seek to promote an atmosphere of tolerance and respect for one another where learning can take place in a safe and nurturing environment. We acknowledge the individuality of each child and the varying circumstances and events which may influence a person's behaviour but we must respect the importance of providing a safe and nurturing environment where all children can achieve their potential.

It is expected that all members of the school community will behave in a positive manner towards each other and towards the school. Teachers and parents as adults should model positive behaviour in their relationships with pupils and one another. Some or all of the following points may be appropriate to some or all members of the school community.

- Be respectful and courteous to each other and to visitors to the school
- Be attentive in class.
- Follow the guidance and instructions of people in charge
- Be considerate of the needs of others
- Be respectful of the individuality and differences of others
- Look after school and personal property
- Be aware of safety of themselves and the safety of others
- Complete all tasks, homework and school work to the best of their abilities
- Participate fully in school activities.

We acknowledge the good behaviour of our children and that such behaviour should be recognised and rewarded through any or some of the following methods. Members of staff should endeavour to reward good behaviour as often as possible and to acknowledge the positive efforts of pupils who may have ongoing issues.

1. A quiet word with an individual child.
2. Praise in front of the pupils, visitors and other staff members.
3. Specific praise in front of or by the principal.
4. Notes in copybooks and homework journals.
5. Selection of pupil to undertake tasks/messages
6. Behaviour Olympic Stars
7. Classroom incentives such as
  - Golden time
  - Stickers
  - Worker of the week
  - Pupil of the week
  - Treats (pencils/stickers/lollipops,sweet).

Such a list is not exhaustive and teachers may use other methods at their discretion.

### **School Rules .**

The purpose of the school rules is to provide a safe environment which protects the health and safety of all individuals and seeks to provide an atmosphere which fosters learning and allows learning to take place in a meaningful way.

Each class teacher will establish general classroom management rules in consultation with the children pertaining to classroom management and behaviour and these will be displayed in the classroom. Classroom rules should be minimal, clear and uncomplicated.

Unacceptable behaviour could consist of any of the following

- Lack of respect or courtesy to each other, visitors or members of the school staff.
- Disruption to school classes through persistent talking, distraction of other pupils.
- Misuse of any substances or materials in the classroom or school premises
- Behaviour which endangers themselves or others
- Failure to respond to instructions from school staff or to co-operate in activities
- Leaving the school premises without permission
- Deliberately damaging school property or equipment.
- Failure to complete homework/schoolwork without satisfactory explanations.
- Any type of aggression towards another pupil.
- Any type of behaviour listed in the school bullying policy including verbal abuse.
- Any form of misuse of technology including mobile phones.

## **Sanctions**

The purpose of sanctions are

- To protect themselves and others
- To develop an appreciation that inappropriate behaviour has consequences.
- To reinforce the boundaries of the code of behaviour.
- To signal to others that their well being is being protected.

Sanctions should be proportionate to the ages of the children and should never be used against a whole class for an individual's misbehaviour.

Any of the following approaches or sanctions may be used when dealing with unacceptable behaviour

- Reasoning with the pupil.
- Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve behaviour.
- Verbal reprimand by the principal.
- Isolation within the classroom for short periods e.g. thinking table.
- Removal from the classroom for short periods. (To the principal's office , another classroom or another supervised area
- Detention at break time.
- Behaviour note to parents outlining behaviour (Individual serious incidents or low level and continuous incidents).
- Loss of privileges such as permission to play in the field area or a responsibility they may have.
- Telephone call to parents
- Request for parents to come to the school to discuss behaviour.
- Exclusion (Suspension or Expulsion) from school (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular and Education Welfare Act 2000)

**Detention** at break time is at the discretion of the principal and class teacher. Pupils should proceed to the school office where the school secretary will record the details. Pupils should have some reading material or incomplete work to occupy them at this time.

**Suspension**

“Requiring the student to absent him/herself from the school for a specified ,limited period of school days”

Single incidents of misconduct may be grounds for suspension

Suspension should be an agreed part of a plan to address the behaviour of the pupil.

**Expulsion**

**“ a student is expelled from a school when a Board of Management makes a decision to permanently exclude him or her from the school, having complied with the provisions of Section 24 of the Education (welfare) act 2000”**

The authority to expel rests solely with the Board of Management

**Procedures for suspension and expulsion**

Procedures laid out in chapters 10-12 of the DES publication “Developing a Code of Behaviour :Guidelines for schools will be followed in the event of a proposed suspension or expulsion.

A copy of this publication is available at the following link

**[https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/guidelines\\_school\\_codes\\_eng.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/guidelines_school_codes_eng.pdf)**

**The sanctions above will also be used in conjunction with the school anti bullying policy.**

The members of staff, the principal and the BOM will work with parents and pupils towards creating a programme for pupils who present with challenging behaviour.

The school will direct parents towards professionals in the health and education services should the need arise such as CAMHS ,Tusla or NEPS

**The school code of behaviour is applicable from when the child enters the school premises until they leave it and on all school activities such as field trips, football matches and quizzes**

**Absences.**The school authorities must notify the Tusla (formerly The National Educational Welfare Board) of all absences greater than 20 days in any school year. Most absences relate to illness or personal family reasons (funerals/weddings/holidays). A written note should be sent to the class teacher detailing the reason for the absence. The teacher will record the reason for the absence and retain the notes.

Parents will be reminded of the schools obligation when a child has missed 16 days and will be invited to discuss the matter with the principal.

The school will involve the local Education Welfare Officer where there is a persistent problem with absences.

A parent may raise an issue with a teacher or the principal as appropriate through the appointment systems in operation in the school. Should the issue fail to be resolved informally the person should follow the complaints procedure policy.

This code of behaviour was reviewed by the BOM of Saint Patrick's National School in 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 is effective immediately and will be communicated to the parents and the parents council. The BOM reserve the right to review this policy should the need arise. Any such amendment will be notified in writing to all parents

Ratified by the BOM on the 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

Chairperson

*Philip King*