



Discipline Policy

Introduction

This policy operates in the context of the School's Charter and reflects the ethos of the school.

We are a caring community with a sound value-base.

We believe that rewarding good behaviour and providing encouragement promotes a climate of consideration for others and encourages good behaviour and respect.

Aims

- To ensure that every member of the school community feels valued and respected.
- To support the way in which all members of this school community can live and work together in an environment that is happy, safe and secure and where effective learning can take place.
- To promote teaching and learning through the building of good relationships based on mutual respect and consideration for others.
- To help children grow in a safe, happy and secure environment and become positive, responsible and independent members of the community.
- To reward good behaviour and provide encouragement and stimulation to all pupils.
- To treat all children fairly and apply this policy in a consistent way.
- To ensure that children are aware of the school rules and the Code of Conduct.
- To teach, through the school curriculum, values and attitudes as well as knowledge and skills, in order to promote responsible behaviour, self-discipline and respect for self, others and the world around us.

A Positive Approach

An effective discipline policy is one that seeks to lead children towards high self-esteem and self-discipline. Consequently, good discipline arises from good relationships and from setting expectations of good behaviour.

It is important that children are familiar with the school ethos and the Code of Conduct.

In this context, children will be rewarded for good behaviour.

We will use a positive system of rewards, which will include:

- Verbal praise
- Positive comments in books

- Special mention in class or in Prayer Time
- Exhibiting good work in class, corridor or school noticeboards
- Informal referral to Principal or another teacher
- Using stars/smiley faces on charts, books etc
- Use of special award certificates within classroom

We reinforce good behaviour and help our children feel good about themselves.

Sequence of Punishments/Sanctions

Failure to abide by the principles of the Code of Conduct or to obey school rules may result in the following punishments or sanctions being applied:

1. The pupil will be told that his/her behaviour is unsuitable, given the opportunity to discuss the situation and will be encouraged to modify that behaviour.
2. Disruptive behaviour in class may result in a child being isolated from his/her peers and
 - seated at a single desk, near the teacher or
 - asked to work for a short time in another classroom.
 - being sent to speak to the Principal
3. The pupil may be asked to write out some or all of the school rules (infants excepted) or to complete an extra piece of work during a break time or for homework.
4. Withdrawal of privileges may be applied. These will be appropriate to the situation and the age of the child and parents will be informed if deemed necessary. Care will be taken not to jeopardise the delivery of the curriculum and sanctions may involve:-
 - exclusion from a particular class.
 - exclusion from an extra-curricular activity.
 - exclusion from a school-organised outing or trip.
5. If, after applying all previous steps, no improvement in behaviour or attitude is evident, the pupil's behaviour will be closely monitored and parents will be informed and invited into school.
6. Advice and assistance for the school and the pupil may be sought from other professionals e.g. Educational Welfare Officer, Educational Psychologist,

The following are regarded by the Department and the Board as valid reasons for suspension or expulsion:

- Substance or alcohol abuse on school premises
- Persistent bullying of a pupil
- Physical attack on a pupil or member of staff
- Verbal abuse of a pupil or member of staff
- Disruptive behaviour in class
- Persistent infringements of relatively minor school rules
- Significant damage to school, staff or pupils' property, either in or outside school
- Stealing from school, staff or pupils, in or outside school.
- A very serious problem may result in the normal procedures being abandoned and a child being taken home straight away

The Role of Parents

Parents have a vital role to play in their children's education. It is very important that they support their child's learning and co-operate with the school. We are very conscious of the importance of having strong links with parents and good communication between home and school.

We will inform parents if we have any concerns about their child's welfare or behaviour and we would appreciate it, if parents have concerns, that they make these known to the Principal or class teacher.

The Role of The Board of Management

The Board of Management have ratified this policy and, with the Principal, will review its effectiveness.

They will ensure that the policy is administered fairly and consistently

This Discipline Policy will be reviewed and updated regularly and as required.