

ST PATRICKS BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL RATHANGAN KILDARE
CODE OF DISCIPLINE
(EDUCATION WELFARE ACT 2000) SECTION 23

IN IMPLEMENTING THE CODE OF DISCIPLINE WE AIM TO:

- Guarantee the constitutional right of each child, to an opportunity to study and be educated without interruption.
- To foster and develop a healthy respect for authority, to protect the health and safety of each individual child and teacher.
- To protect the school property and equipment and hand it on safely to the next generation.
- To develop the self-esteem of each child and help in some small way to make life happier, more organised and calmer for all children.
- To foster a Christian ethos of Fairness, Honesty and Equality.

TO TRY TO PREVENT MISBEHAVIOUR AND FOSTER GOOD BEHAVIOUR WE WILL:

- Try to build up a good relationship with every child and try to understand his personality and unique differences.
- Try not to marginalise any child avoiding statements like ‘you are always’ etc.
- Talk to the children in the classes constantly about good behaviour, acknowledge and thank individuals and groups for good behaviour.
- Use circle-time, group discussion, role-play and allow time and the opportunity for individuals to discuss their concerns.
- School assembly once a fortnight to praise school and pupils achievements and to highlight certain rules to be worked on.

We will at all times strive to be as positive and preventative as possible, while recognising that some rules and sanctions will have to be invoked from time to time.

To facilitate this, we have drawn up a set of rules, which are most relevant to conditions that pertain to our school at the moment.

These rules will be applied consistently, fairly and firmly. We will adhere to the spirit of the rule rather than to the letter, giving many warnings and trying first to understand why the behaviour is happening and speaking individually to children.

GENERAL POINTS.

- Each teacher in the school has the right and the responsibility to check all children in the school corridor, toilet, classroom or grounds during school hours.
- The main school door opens at 9.00am each morning and closes at 3.00pm. Individual classroom doors will open when the bell rings. The Board of Management cannot be responsible for children outside these times.

- The behaviour of children waiting for buses will be the parent's responsibility but the Principal and Board of Management reserve the right to protect the good name of the school and the school property.
- The Principal (or any other teacher), reserves the right to correct and discipline children while on the school tours and while travelling to or taking part in activities like sport, drama, masses, nature walks etc. which are organised by the school under the name of the school.

RULES OF THE SCHOOL

1. Obey and respect all teachers.
2. No name-calling.
3. Do not leave the school grounds without permission. Stay off perimeter walls and gates.
4. No cycling in school grounds. Bikes to be locked. Walk to the gate.
5. Do not fight. Stop others fighting.
6. Quiet in the building. No running or rough play. No standing on furniture
7. Respect the property of the school and others. No chewing gum in school.
8. Use toilets, wash hands, then leave toilets.
9. Stay seated when the teacher leaves the classroom.
10. Put litter in bins. Reduce – Reuse - Recycle.
11. Leave and enter classroom in an orderly fashion. Don't push or run.
12. Play with own class only – games without rules are prohibited.
13. Teachers may use their discretion to allow/disallow certain toys/match attacks/looms etc. in their classrooms.

SANCTIONS THAT MAY BE USED

A CHILD MAY BE:

1. Given a warning and explanation of rule broken.
2. Put sitting apart from others.
3. Sent to a designated class or outside staff room door for break time.
4. Have a warning written on class teacher's notebook.
5. Sent to principal or another designated teacher by appointment.
6. Any other sanction deemed acceptable by the principal or teacher.
7. Sent to principal by appointment for:
 - (i) Letter or phonecall home
 - (ii) Request of parents to visit etc.
8. If offence is serious enough by the Principal & classroom teacher the child may be suspended overnight/until parent(s)/guardian(s) come into school.
9. If misbehaviour continues, suspended for three days by the principal and chairperson of Board of Management.
10. Asked to a meeting of parent(s)/principal/chairperson of the B.O.M. to discuss future behaviour.
11. Suspended for a further period until matter is resolved.
12. Gardaí or other authorities may be informed if the law is broken.

- **The Principal has the formal permission of the Board of Management to suspend a boy overnight for any one single act of gross misbehaviour, e.g.**

1. Theft of a serious nature.
2. Bad language or disrespect of a teacher.
3. Serious intentional injury to pupil, teacher or school property.

4. Spitting or head-butting or biting.

Overnight Suspension – Means that the child has to be accompanied to school by Parent(s)/Guardian(s).

PARENTS

The above may seem very serious but due to the hard work and good example of everyone especially you the parents we experience very little serious misbehaviour in the school and have a happy lively atmosphere where all the boys work well having regard to their own unique ability and intelligences. We ask you to:

1. Take notes home seriously and act responsibly on them.
2. Please come to us first, and come early, if you have a concern
3. Never discuss the school negatively with or in the child's hearing – as this does not help your child. Help out and take part.
4. Make sure your child has:
 - (a) The proper uniform.
 - (b) Neat, clean hair in a reasonably conventional style.
 - (c) No earrings, jewellery, toys or tipp-ex.
5. Make sure your child is in school punctually every day if possible.
6. Check your child's footwear regularly and ensure that shoes are not torn and have a good grip.
7. Do not drive in the grounds.
8. Check homework is done and properly presented.
9. Give your child a proper, wholesome lunch. No sweets, orange, coke etc. No glass bottles, cans etc.
10. Send in notes (dated please) for the following:
 - (a) When a child has been absent and is returning to school.
 - (b) To leave school at any time.
 - (c) When home work is not done or finished.
 - (d) When late for school.
 - (e) When you want your child to stay in the classroom during break if not well.

In this important matter of discipline we ask for and expect the full co-operation of parents. We ask you to keep up the good work and help make our school a better, safer and happier place for all the pupils and staff.

This policy has been adopted by the B.O.M. Principal, Staff & Parents on 10th March 2015 at a meeting of the Board.

The overall responsibility for the everyday implementation of this policy lies with the principal, learning support teacher and class teachers.

I the undersigned on behalf of the Board of Management totally endorse and take ultimate responsibility for the implementation of this policy statement.

Signed: _____
Chairperson B.O. M.