



## **Code of Behaviour**

## **Introduction**

In compliance with Section 23 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, the Board of Management of Ballynacally National School has prepared and made available a Code of Behaviour for its Pupils, Staff and Parents.

The Code of Behaviour details:

1. The standards of behaviour that shall be observed by each pupil attending the school;
2. The whole school approach in promoting positive behaviour;
3. The measures that shall be taken when a pupil fails to observe those standards.

The Code of Behaviour of Ballynacally National School has been developed in accordance with 'Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for Schools', National Educational Welfare Board, 2008.

## **Policy Consideration**

1. In devising the code, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of this school. The individuality of each child is accommodated while acknowledging the right of each child to education in a relatively disruption free environment.
2. Every effort will be made by members of our staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school. The code offers a framework within which positive techniques of motivation and encouragement are utilised by teachers.
3. The school places greater emphasis on praise/encouragement than on sanctions in the belief that this will, in the long run, give the best results.
4. The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
5. It is agreed that a high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school, a high level of co-operation among staff, and between staff, pupils and parents.
6. The rules will be kept to a minimum and will be positively stated in terms of what pupils should do.
7. We hope that an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding will be cultivated within the school

## **The aims and objectives of the code are:**

- To allow the school to function in an orderly way where children can make progress in all aspects of their development

- To create an atmosphere of respect, tolerance and consideration for others
- To promote positive behaviour and self-discipline, recognising the differences between children and the need to accommodate these differences
- To ensure the safety and well being of all members of the school community
- To assist school staff, parents and pupils in understanding the systems and procedures that form part of the code of behaviour and to seek their co-operation in the application of these procedures
- To ensure that the system of rules, rewards, and sanctions are implemented in a fair and consistent manner throughout the school.

## **Whole School Approach**

The Board of Management recognises the importance of creating consistent values, policies, practices and relationships that support the Code of Behaviour. Such an environment may only be formed by involving the entire school community and, in this respect, the Board acknowledges the importance of the roles played by the principal, teachers, ancillary staff and parents in the operation of the Code.

## **Standards of Behaviour**

To maintain an environment where positive behaviour is the norm, appropriate standards of behaviour can be expected.

### *General Behaviour*

*Each pupil is expected to:*

- Be well behaved and to show respect and consideration for other children and adults.
- Conduct themselves in a manner which ensures their own safety and that of their peers and school personnel.
- Show respect for the property of the school, other children and their own belongings.
- Work – to the best of his/her ability

- Listen and Follow – the direction of his/her teacher

### *Playground Behaviour*

*Each pupil is expected to:*

- Play – safely avoiding any games or play that are rough or dangerous
- Follow – the directions of the teacher on yard duty
- Remain – on school grounds at all times
- Obtain – permission before re-entering the school building during break periods
- Respect – the teacher, staff and fellow pupils
- Avoid – swearing, fighting or name calling.

### **Your fellow students expect that you will:**

- Not bully them
- Show acceptance and respect their differing personalities
- Never insult or belittle them because of differences.
- Respect their property
- Be kind, polite and willing to help when required.
- Listen to them and acknowledge them
- Share equipment and resources with them
- Allow them to be part of the group
- Speak to them with courtesy and respect

### **Staff**

The Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers, which is available at [www.teachingcouncil.ie](http://www.teachingcouncil.ie), outlines the standards of professional conduct expected of members of the teaching staff of Ballynacally National School.

It is the Principal's responsibility to ensure the school's Code of Behaviour is administered in a manner that is consistent and fair to all pupils. However each staff member has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline in common areas of the school.

Teaching staff are specifically responsible for the management of behaviour within their own class.

## **Parents/Guardians**

Parents/guardians play a crucial role in shaping attitudes in their children which produce positive Behaviour in school. Parents/guardians can assist the school by encouraging their children to abide by the school rules, encouraging punctuality, regular attendance and by ensuring that homework is given due time and completed to the best of the individual pupil's ability.

Should a parent/guardian be concerned about any aspect of their child's behaviour they are welcome to make an appointment with the relevant class teacher to discuss their concerns. In cases of an identified pattern of misbehaviour, parents will be invited to participate in the intervention process.

## **Parents**

*Parents can expect to:*

- Be treated with respect;
- Have a safe and welcoming environment for their child;
- Obtain recognition for individual differences among pupils having due regard for the resources that are available;
- Have fair and consistent procedures applied to the school's dealings with pupils;
- Receive progress reports in accordance with agreed school policy (P.T. meetings annually and end of year reports)

*Parents are expected to:*

- Engage and interact with staff members and other members of the school community in a courteous and respectful manner
- Ensure their children comply with the school's Code of Behaviour and all other school policies and procedures as detailed by the Board of Management
- Report immediately to the office or a teacher if calling to the school during the day for any reason;
- Ensure they do not reprimand any pupil on the school grounds;
- Provide a note for all absenteeism;
- Help their children to learn and practice good behaviour and to have a positive attitude towards themselves, other people and towards the school;

## **Promoting Positive Behaviour**

As a general rule the school will endeavour to create an environment where positive behaviour is reinforced through praise and reward. School staff will use encouraging language and gestures, both in class and around the school, so that positive behaviour is instantly recognised and positively rewarded.

Special attention will be paid to pupils who have previously been associated with poor behaviour so that an effort to improve behaviour is acknowledged.

### **System for acknowledging good behaviour, progress and effort**

Good behaviour is praised in a number of ways at the teachers' discretion.

*For Individuals, good behaviour may be acknowledged as follows:*

1. A quiet word or gesture to show approval;
2. A word of praise in front of group/class
3. A mention to the principal;
4. A mention to parents (verbal or written);

*Group/Class, a group/class treat such as:*

5. Reduction in homework
6. DVD

7. Time given to preferred activity
8. Extra playtime
9. For groups within a class a system of merit marks
10. A mention to the principal

## **Inappropriate Behaviour**

In order to establish a common understanding and consistent response, the following steps will be taken when a child behaves inappropriately. These steps are followed appropriate to development. The list is by no means exhaustive. Teachers may put in place alternative measures bearing in mind the circumstances involved. The aim of any sanction is to prevent the behaviour occurring again and if necessary to help the pupil devise strategies for this.

- 1.Reasoning with pupil
- 2.Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve
- 3.Temporary separation from peers within class and/or temporary removal to another class
- 4.Prescribing extra work
- 5.Loss of privileges - Including attendance at school sporting events
- 6.Detention during break
- 7.Communication with parents
- 8.Referral to Principal
- 9.Principal communicating with parents

Teachers may vary the order of steps 3 to 8 as they see fit.

Usually sanctions will relate as closely as possible to the behaviour.

In serious situations, the school may sanction 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).

Parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case. The Board may authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding three school days, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents. This authorisation has been granted at a Board of Management meeting on 19th October 2021. Before suspending or expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Education Welfare Officer in writing in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.

Following or during a period of suspension, the parent/s may apply to have the pupil reinstated to the school. The parent/s must give a satisfactory undertaking that a suspended pupil will behave

in accordance with the school code. The Principal must be satisfied that the pupil's reinstatement will not constitute a risk to the pupil's own safety or that of the other pupils or staff.

## **Children with Special Educational Needs**

All children are required to comply with the code of behaviour. However, the school recognises that children with special needs may require assistance in understanding certain rules.

Specialised behaviour plans may be put in place in consultation with parents and the class teacher, special education teacher, and/or principal will work closely with home to ensure that optimal support is given. Cognitive development will be taken into account at all times.

Professional advice from psychological assessments will be invaluable.

The children in the class or school may be taught strategies to assist a pupil with special educational needs adhere to the rules and thus provide peer support. This will be done in a supportive and safe way, acknowledging and respecting the difference in all individuals.

### **Addendum due to Covid 19.**

In light of the need for children and adults to behave differently due to Covid 19, this addendum has been included. Our sole guiding principle when making any adjustments to the policy is to be able to keep all of our children, families and staff safe and to place their wellbeing at the forefront of everything we do.

### **School Routines and Procedures:**

All pupils parents and staff are required to comply with Covid 19 control measures including:

- Follow arrival and dismissal procedures. Parents are required to drop and collect promptly at the allocated times
- Follow instructions on who pupils can socialise with at school
- Move around the school as per specific instructions ( for example, one way systems, out of bounds areas, queuing, one person only in the toilets)
- Follow rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles
- Follow rules regarding use of toilets
- Follow school instructions on hygiene such as hand washing and sanitising
- Following HSE guidance when displaying Covid 19 symptoms.

### **Sanctions:**

Any child or adult purposely acting in an unsafe manner will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour.

## **Policy Ratification**

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Ballynacally National School on

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairperson, Board of Management