

Code of Positive Behaviour

For Scoil Phádraig

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Broad Aims:

To develop the individual as a mature Christian who respects himself/herself, those with whom he/she associates and society in general.

Specific Aims:

- To ensure a safe learning environment for all
- To guarantee fairness to all
- To allow teachers to use their teaching skills to the full
- To protect school property
- That a good, positive relationship should exist between pupils, teachers, parents and all other agencies.
- That the failure in relation to discipline should be examined to see if more than one party, or cause is involved
- Emphasis should be placed on **reward for good behaviour** rather than sanction for bad behaviour.

Our Code of Behaviour specifies 5 main elements:

- A. The standard of behaviour that shall be observed by each student attending the school
- B. The measures to be taken when a student fails or refuses to observe those standards
- C. The procedures to be followed before a student may be suspended or expelled from school
- D. The grounds for removing a suspension imposed in relation to a student
- E. The procedures to be followed relating to notification of a child's absence from school

A. Standard of behaviour that shall be observed by each student attending Milltown National School

Safety: For my own safety and that of others

- I should come directly to the classroom in the morning no earlier than 9.15 a.m. and no later than 9.20 a.m.
- At home time, I should stay in line with the teacher as he/she escorts me to the side gate at 3.00 p.m. (2pm for the Junior classes).
- I should always walk while in the school building
- I should remain seated while eating lunch
- I should play safely in the designated play area.

Caring for myself

- I should respect myself and my property, always keeping my school bag, books and copies in good order
- I should never be on School Grounds before 9.15 a.m. or after 3.00. p.m.
- I should show respect for my school and be proud to keep it clean, tidy and litter free

- I should always be aware of my personal cleanliness – flush the toilet and wash hands
- I should always bring a nutritional lunch to school (see Healthy Lunch Policy).
- I should always do my best in school by completing my classwork and homework.
- I should always be polite and use words such as please, excuse me and thank you.

Caring for others

- I should be kind and respectful to teachers, ancillary staff and fellow pupils by being mannerly and polite, by taking turns and abiding by school rules
- I should behave well in class so that everyone can learn
- I should always show respect towards visitors to the school
- I should always behave when on School Outings or when I am representing the School in sports, quizzes etc
- Bullying is forbidden at all times. It is important to understand what bullying is and to this end we have taken the definition from the Department of Education's *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary School*:

'Bullying is unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical conducted, by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time'.

School rules and regulations are mentioned to pupils by the class teacher and at assembly throughout the year. Parents are requested to read and sign these rules on enrolment of their child. Parents are asked to make reasonable efforts that their child complies with these rules for their own safety and the safety of others.

- Our school has regulations and routines which are designed to ensure and guarantee the smooth and effective running of our school.

- Such regulations and routines are clearly stated in the School Plan for Milltown N.S.

B. General Measures to be taken by Class Teacher or Teacher on yard duty

when a student fails or refuses to observe standards set out in this policy.

- a) Point out to pupil what he/she is doing wrong-The pupil is made aware that his/her behaviour is unacceptable, Verbal reprimand, including advice on how to improve
- b) Removal to another seat
- c) Badly presented/incomplete homework may have to be redone
- d) Removal to another teacher's classroom for a period of time
- e) Detention during break
- f) Recording of incident of misbehaviour in Child's Homework Journal and/or contacting of parents by phone.
- g) Student Behaviour Reflection Form is filled out by pupil who continues to misbehave following receipt of above sanctions or if teacher deems it necessary at an earlier stage.
- h) Referral to Principal

Please Note: Although incidents of misbehaviour are recorded on a **Student Behaviour Reflection Form**, the emphasis is on encouraging children to behave well and praise will be given for commendable behaviour. All staff will endeavour to place **emphasis on good behaviour**. In line with this positive approach to behaviour, students who contribute positively to school life will be commended for their efforts during assembly each month.

Praise may be given by means of any of the following:

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval
- Pupil commended for their efforts at assembly
- A comment in a pupil's exercise book

- A visit to another member of staff or to the Principal for commendation
- Certificate of Good Behaviour
- Homework Voucher
- Small prizes/awards to be presented by class teacher/principal.

Parents will be informed at an early stage if problems occur and not simply at the point where a crisis has arisen. At times, it has been suggested by some parents that the matters to which their attention is being drawn are of a trivial nature, and that there was no necessity to have informed them. While the misbehaviour may appear to be of a trivial nature, it is the cumulative effect of such breaches of the rules, which is important as it undermines the ethos of the school.

Please Note: Pupils who misbehave frequently and who have no remorse for their actions will not be allowed to participate in school outings/ extra-curricular activities for their own safety and that of others.

Specific Sanctions

(A) No Homework without reasonable explanation/written note from parents.

- On first offence Teacher records incident in child's Homework Journal for parental viewing.
- On second offence child completes Behaviour Reflection Form and submits to principal.
- On third offence Class Teacher/Principal invites parents to meeting to discuss same

(B) Bullying Offence

- Our Anti-Bullying policy sets out in detail how bullying is reported, investigated and dealt with.

- **The primary aim in investigating and dealing with bullying is to resolve any issues and to restore, as far as is practicable, the relationships of the parties involved rather than to apportion blame.** Every effort will be made to ensure that all involved (including pupils, parent(s)/guardian(s)) understand this approach from the outset.
- It must also be made clear to all involved (each set of pupils and parent(s)/guardian(s)) **that in any situation where disciplinary sanctions are required, this is a private matter between the pupil being disciplined, his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) and the school.**

Assuming previous efforts/sanctions have failed the following will apply in instances of

“Serious Misbehaviour.”

C. Procedures to be followed before a student may be suspended or expelled.

1. Review all instances of serious misbehaviour recorded on pupil’s file.
2. Parents notified and interview with the parents is arranged by class teacher with the knowledge of the Principal.
3. If the problem persists the principal will again make the parents aware of the pupils recorded misbehaviour and the consequences of such continued behaviour.
4. If still no improvement, the principal will acquaint the Chairman of the B.O.M. of the problem.
5. Parents will be invited to an extra-ordinary meeting of the B.O.M.
If there is no improvement the B.O.M. may deem it necessary to suspend the pupil for a specified period.
6. Expulsion will be considered in an extreme case.

D. Grounds for removing a suspension imposed in relation to a student-

- I. Direction from an Appeals Committee
- II. BOM may reconsider
- III. New information may come to light.

E. Procedures to be followed relating to notification of a child's absence from school.

The Education Welfare Act (2000) provides that an Educational Welfare Officer may be involved in the school on a frequent basis as appropriate.

However there are specific occasions when s/he must be informed about certain issues.

These are when any student

- is suspended for a single period in excess of 6 school days
- is absent for an aggregate period over 20 days over the course of a school year
- displays, in the opinion of the principal, a pattern of attendance which gives rise to concern
- has his/her name removed from register
- is being considered for expulsion by the school.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

- Teachers will be positive in encouraging an atmosphere which promotes discipline and will know and apply the school's code in letter and in spirit
- Pupils will be motivated as positively as possible to know and abide by the rules.
- On enrolment to the school, parents must give written confirmation that they have read the Code of Behaviour and that they will make reasonable efforts to ensure the compliance of their child with the code.
- The Board of Management will be aware of the Code within the school and will encourage and support the development of good discipline within the school.

Chairperson BOM: Father Fitzsimons

Ratified by the Board on: 28/2/19

Code of Positive Behaviour Acceptance Form

I have read the Code of Positive Behaviour for Scoil Phádraig. I will make every reasonable effort to ensure the compliance of my child with this Code; for his/her own safety and the safety of all pupils in Scoil Phádraig.

Signed : _____

Date : _____

Please sign this acceptance form and return to the school office at your earliest convenience.

For office use only:

Date received: _____

Principal's signature: _____

Date: _____

