

Board of Management

Scoil Bhríde, Cill Bhríde

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Code of Behaviour for pupils of Scoil Bhríde.

1. Introduction:

This Code of Behaviour was developed in consultation with the school community of Scoil Bhríde. It sets out a framework within which the whole school community manages behaviour and our strategies towards positive behaviour. It is consistent with the National Education Welfare Board, Guidelines for Schools (June 2008), The Education Act 1998, Section 15 (1), (2), Section 21 (1), (3), (4), Section 23, (2), (3) and in accordance with circular 20/90 of the DES, and Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools' of the DES, especially Section (3) "The use of corporal punishment is forbidden." Other policies relevant to this code include: Anti-Bullying Policy, Child Protection Policy, Internet Safety Policy and Health and Safety Policy.

2. Rationale:

Our school is a place in which to be safe, happy and work well.

It is agreed that a high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school and a high level of co-operation amongst staff and between staff, parents and pupils.

This Code of Behaviour has been drafted to promote effective teaching and co-operation amongst staff, pupils, parents, the Board of Management and the wider school community. It applies to all school-based and extra curricular activities involving school staff and pupils. Our Code of Behaviour endeavours to facilitate a caring environment where good personal relationships and mutual respect are the cornerstones.

It is a condition of attendance at Scoil Bhríde that

- pupils abide by the rules of this Code of Behaviour.

- that both parents/guardians and pupils sign the code of behaviour
- that the signed appendix is kept on the pupils file.

4. **Relationship to the characteristic spirit of the school:-**
Scoil Bhríde is a Catholic Primary School.

Our ethos in Scoil Bhríde is to maintain an inclusive climate of learning within which every member is enabled to develop and fulfil their own unique potential.

The school recognises the variety of the differences that exists between individual children and the need to tolerate these differences.

5. **The Aims of our Code of Behaviour Are:**

- To enable the school to function in a just and orderly manner.
- To ensure the continuance of a pleasant, harmonious environment for teachers, pupils and parents.
- To provide an enriching environment that allows each child to maximise his/her potential.
- To engender respect, tolerance and consideration for each other.
- To promote positive behaviour and self discipline recognising the differences between pupils and the need to accommodate these differences.
- To ensure a safe learning and recreational environment that protects the wellbeing of all.
- To ensure that the system of rules, rewards and sanctions are implemented in a fair and consistent manner.

6.1 **General Behaviour:**

Safety – For my own safety and that of others-

- a) I should always show courtesy and consideration to others.
- b) I should always respect the property of the school and of others.
- c) I should always be truthful and honest.
- d) I should never use threatening language, gesture or behaviour.
- e) I should bring in a healthy lunch in line with the healthy eating policy.
- f) I should help to keep the school clean and litter free.
- g) I should always do my best in school by listening carefully, and working hard.
- h) I should never interfere with fire extinguishers or fire alarms.

6.2 **A breach of any school rules may lead to a disciplinary action.**

School Rules:

The official opening time of the school is 9.20am. All pupils are expected to be in class by 9.20am. The Board of Management can give no undertaking that

the children will be supervised before this time and accepts no responsibility for pupils left on the premises before this time. Furthermore, insurance(s) only covers children on the premises between 9.20am and 3.00pm. Infant classes finish at 2.00pm each day and other classes at 3.00pm.

1. Pupils will arrive on time for school.

2. **School uniform:-**

- navy skirt/trousers, pale blue shirt, red tie, navy cardigan/jumper with school crest and black/brown shoes must be worn at all times.
- P.E days are notified by class teacher and require a plain navy tracksuit (with school crest) and a plain pale blue polo shirt. Runners tied for Health and Safety reasons.
- Long hair tied back.
- Children may not attend school wearing makeup, nail varnish, or having their hair dyed.
- For safety purposes pupils may not wear drop earrings and may only wear one stud earring per ear lobe.
- No other jewellery in any other pierced body part is permitted during school hours.

3. In the interest of safety pupils must walk within the school. Pupils are expected to treat all staff members, themselves and each other with due respect and courtesy. Pupils are expected to stand back for an adult, to welcome visitors and to show respect for their elders.

4. Bullying is forbidden. Any behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to be safe is unacceptable.

5. Bad language is forbidden. Inappropriate language if used towards a teacher or anywhere within the school is unacceptable.

6. Chewing gum, glass bottles, matches, cigarettes, alcohol or drugs are strictly forbidden as is the misuse of correction fluids and other solvents.

7. Children are not allowed to use or be in possession of mobile phones while on the school premises.

8. Pupils must respect the school building and property. If any deliberate damage is caused, the parent/guardian will be responsible for the cost of repair/replacement

7 **Affirming Positive Behaviour:**

When the rules of the school are followed consistently and fairly, the pupils will know what behaviour is acceptable and can choose whether or not to follow the rules of the school and get rewarded. The sanctions below come into force if pupils choose not to follow the rules. The overall emphasis is of a positive nature – many children follow rules quietly every day and don't receive the recognition they deserve. These strategies hope to address this situation and recognise those children and reward them.

7.1 **Strategies for promoting positive behaviour may be chosen from among the following.**

- 1) Pupils showing improved behaviour are acknowledged immediately by their class teacher and their class.
- 2) Group co-operation is encouraged and rewarded.
- 3) Stars, stamps or stickers are awarded as appropriate. A system of points may be established in senior classes.
- 4) Pupils showing improved effort are regularly affirmed by being sent to another class teacher or to the Principal.
- 5) Exemption from homework for a night in a subject or for all subjects is also used as an incentive to improve performance or behaviour.

8. **Definition and treatment of Misdemeanours:**

Misdemeanours are an infringement of the standards of behaviour set out in this code. Misdemeanours may be minor, serious or gross. All minor misdemeanours when repeated are treated as serious. This is because even minor breaches of the code of behaviour can be disruptive particularly if they are persistent. Serious misdemeanours can have damaging and long lasting effects including disruption of the student's own learning and the learning of others. This can cause distress and anxiety or even pose a threat to the safety of pupils and staff

Misbehaviour of younger pupils is dealt with in an age-appropriate manner. Pupils with behavioural or learning difficulties will be treated by taking cognisance of their circumstances with appropriately.

8.1 **Minor Misdemeanours (include but are not limited to):**

- interrupting class work
- arriving late for school
- running in school building
- talking in class line
- leaving seat without permission at lunch time
- placing unfinished food/drinks cartons in class bin
- leaving litter around school

- being discourteous/unmannerly
- not completing homework without good reason
- not having homework signed by a parent
- endangering self/fellow in the school

There are times when sanctions are necessary. In imposing sanctions it is the misbehaviour that is unacceptable not the individual.

Phase 1.

Sanctions which may apply to unacceptable behaviour in general or minor misdemeanours.

1. Reasoning with pupil
2. Reprimand and advice on how to improve
3. Verbal warning by class teacher/supervising teacher.
4. Temporary separation
5. Prescribing extra work
6. Note in journal to be signed by parents/guardians.

Phase 2.

Sanctions which may apply when dealing with regular occurrences of minor misdemeanours.

1. Two verbal warnings
2. Record incident
3. Write story of what happened (class/age appropriate)
4. Temporary separation from peers
5. 2 notes in homework journal to be signed by parents/guardians

Phase 3.

1. Send to principal
2. Record in book in principal's office
3. Class teacher meets parents/guardians

8.2 Serious Misdemeanours:

Serious misdemeanours (include but are not limited to)

- Constantly disruptive in class
- Telling lies
- Stealing
- Damaging or interfering with another person's property

- Bullying (see anti-bullying policy)
- Back answering a teacher
- Leaving school premises during school day without permission
- Using or writing unacceptable language
- Having glass bottles, jars of correction fluids or other solvents to school
- Deliberately injuring a fellow pupil or partaking in any activity which would put themselves or others in danger
- Misuse of fire equipment
- Being in possession of mobile phones on school premises.

Sanctions which may apply when dealing with serious misdemeanours.

1. A record of all serious misdemeanours is kept by class teacher and principal
2. Class teacher discusses the incident with the principal
3. Principal sends a note in the journal to be signed by the parents/guardians
4. Principal meets parents/guardians where necessary
5. Chairman of the Board of management is informed and parents/guardians may be asked to meet him
6. A psychological or psychiatric assessment may be recommended. The outcome of such an assessment may enable the school to allocate resources within the school or access resources from other agencies. If parents/guardians refuse to have an assessment carried out the full rigours of the Code of Behaviour will apply within 48 hours.

8.3 Gross misdemeanours (include but are not limited to)

- Deliberately vandalizing school property
- Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher or pupil
- Bringing drugs, cigarettes or matches to school
- Damaging vehicles parked in the school
- Setting off the fire alarm.

Steps to be taken when dealing with gross misdemeanours.

1. Record incident
2. Report to Principal and Chairperson of the Board of Management.
3. Principal contacts parents/guardians immediately

If following steps 1 to 3 no resolution has been arrived at steps 4 and 5 apply.

4. Chairperson and Principal meet parents/guardians
5. Chairperson and Principal will sanction immediate suspension

In the case of a single instance of gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour the Board authorises the chairperson or principal to sanction an immediate suspension of three days.

Communication to parents regarding the suspension of a pupil will be in writing.

A written statement of the terms and date of termination of a suspension will be given to parents.

If the suspension of a pupil is for six days, the Principal informs the Education Welfare officer in writing.

When a period of suspension ends, the pupil will be re-admitted formally to class by the Principal/Deputy Principal.

Where a satisfactory resolution of a problem is achieved, a pupil may be re-admitted to school within the suspension period at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Board and Principal.

Procedure for Expulsion:

Expulsion will be considered in an extreme case in accordance with Rule 130(6) i.e. “No pupil can be struck off the rolls for breaches of discipline without prior consent of the Patron and until alternative arrangements are made for enrolments of a pupil at another suitable school in the locality.

The procedures listed above for the suspension of a pupil are followed in the case of expelling a pupil from the school.

Prior to the expulsion of a pupil the Education Welfare Officer will be notified in writing of the school’s intention twenty days in advance.

Links to other policies

This Code of Behaviour is linked to other policies within the school plan. Among these are the schools’

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Internet Safety: acceptable use policy
- Health and Safety

9. **Evaluation**

This Policy has been drawn up in consultation with the Board of Management, parents, staff and pupils. It will be monitored regularly and reviewed annually in the light of experience.

10. **Success Criteria**

The success of this policy will be determined by
Feedback from teachers, pupils, parents and Board of Management.

11. **Roles and Responsibilities**

The implementation of this policy depends on the co-operation and collaboration of

- All Staff Members
- Parents/Guardians

13. **Review:**

This Policy was reviewed in September 2014 by representatives of the school community including staff, parents and board members, without change, taking cognisance of relevant information legislation and feedback.

14. **Communication.**

This policy is available on the school website www.scoilbhidens.ie. All newcomer families are made aware of this.

Chairman of Board of Management

Date

Appendix 1

Incident Report

Teacher ----- **Class** -----

Date ----- **Time** -----

Names of Pupils:

Details of Incident:

Appendix 2 forms part of our enrolment application form