

## Code of Behaviour

In devising this code every consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of our school.

We aim to create and provide an orderly environment which is happy and secure for all pupils and staff.

Pupils will be encouraged to develop self-discipline and make progress in all aspects of their development.

Every effort will be made by all members of the staff to adopt a positive approach to behaviour in the school. The emphasis, where possible will be on promoting positive behaviour rather than dealing with negative behaviours.

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 among staff and between staff, parents and pupils. Every effort will be made to ensure that the code of discipline is implemented in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner. Discipline issues will be discussed regularly at staff meetings.

The rules can be divided into 4 main sections

- Myself
- Classroom
- School yard
- Transition Areas such as corridors and halla

### **Myself:**

- I will listen carefully when requested to do so.
- I will do my best. I will not waste time
- I will always be in school at 9am
- I will respect my property and myself
- I will keep my schoolbag and books in good order
- I will show respect for my school
- I will always be aware of my personal cleanliness
- I will never chew gum in school
- I will be truthful and honest
- I will always do the homework assigned to me by the teachers

### **Classroom:**

- I will sit on my chair when requested to do so
- I will listen. I will not interrupt others
- I will show respect for my classmates
- I will not interfere with the learning of others
- I will be gentle. I will not hurt anyone
- I will help keep a tidy classroom
- I will use the toilet properly and wash my hands
- I will be kind and helpful and not hurt other people's feelings
- I will be quiet and stay in my place if my teacher is talking to a visitor to our room
- I will bring a note of explanation following any absences. Notes will be signed by my parents/guardians
- I will not switch on or use my mobile phone in school.
- I will respect my teacher and any visitors to my classroom/school
- I will keep my school clean by putting litter in the dustbin

## **Playground:**

*See playground rules*

## **Transition Areas (e.g. corridors, halla):**

- I will always walk never run
- I will follow the instructions given by the staff
- I will enter and exit the classroom/school in an orderly fashion, in a single file, never pushing or shoving
- I will always stand aside to let adults enter or exit before me

**Library:** See rules for the school library

## **Bullying:**

I will not bully others. I will not allow others to bully me and if it happens I will tell my parents and teachers. Bullying is never acceptable.

*See Anti-Bullying Policy*

## **Strategies to reward/promote good behaviour:**

- Remind children of the rules and the rationale behind them
- Reward good behaviour
- Teachers promote models of good behaviour
- Time out
- A quiet word or gesture to show approval
- A positive comment in a child's notebook
- A visit to another class or to the Principal for commendation
- A word of praise in front of a group or class
- A system of merit marks
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege
- A mention to parent, written or verbal

## **Sanctions to show disapproval of and to discourage unacceptable behaviour:**

- Verbal warning
- Gestural warning - look, whisper
- Reasoning with child
- Prescribing extra work
- Communication with parents
- Temporary separation from peers which may involve child being supervised in another classroom and/or being denied playtime at lunch time
- Loss of privileges
- Record taken
- Suspension/expulsion (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular 7/88)

## **Procedures:**

The degree of misdemeanours i.e. minor or serious will be judged by the teachers and or Principal based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity/frequency of such misdemeanours.

### **Examples of minor misdemeanours:**

- Arriving late for school
- Running in the school
- Leaving litter around the school
- Not wearing uniform
- Being discourteous/unmannerly
- Not completing homework without good reason
- Rough play in the schoolyard
- Fidgeting
- Spitting
- Continuously talking in class

### **Examples of serious misbehaviour:**

- All minor misdemeanours when on a continuous basis
- Bullying (see definition in school's policy )
- Stealing
- Damaging other pupil's property
- Leaving school property without permission
- Deliberately injuring another pupil
- Dishonesty/ telling lies
- Disrespect
- Using bad language
- Racist remarks
- Biting
- Uncontrolled behaviour
- Disturbing teaching and learning in class

**Please note these lists consist of examples only**

### **Actions/Sanctions to use when serious misdemeanours occur:**

*One or more may be used- whichever is appropriate*

- Verbal warning
- Circle time will be used as a tool to address issues/ resolve conflict
- Class spoken to by class teacher and/or Principal
- Child seen individually by Principal
- Use of S.A.L.T. programme to deal with conflict
- Parents will be informed
- Pupil may be denied playtime/privilege
- Meeting with parents
- Relevant assessments/referrals may be sought

- In the event of continuous misdemeanours and or serious misbehaviour Board of Management will be informed
- The Board of Management may take a decision to suspend a child

The decision to suspend a pupil requires serious grounds such as:

- The pupil's behaviour has had a detrimental effect on the education of others
- The pupil's behaviour constitutes a threat to the safety of pupils and/or staff
- The pupil is responsible for serious damage to property

A single incident of serious misconduct may be grounds for suspension.

### **References:**

Playground Rules and guidelines

Sport's code of conduct

Anti-bullying policy

Library rules

S.A.L.T. - Creative solutions to conflict for Primary Schools  
(Learning Horizons)