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Code of Behaviour

Introduction

In devising the Code of Behaviour for St Paul's N.S., consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of this school.

Aims of the Code of Behaviour:

- a) The efficient operation of the school and the structuring of in-class discipline so that there exists an efficient and stimulating learning environment.
- b) The maintenance of good order throughout the school and respect for the school environment.
- c) The development of self-discipline of pupils based on consideration, respect and tolerance for others.
- d) To facilitate the education and development of every child.

Principles of the Code of Behaviour:

This framework aims to promote constructive behaviour and strives to ensure that the individuality of each pupil is accommodated while acknowledging the right of each child to an education in a relatively disruption-free environment. The school code places a greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions in order to encourage positive behaviour. For this Code of Behaviour to be effective, it is imperative that there is a strong sense of community within the school and that there is a high level of co-operation among teachers, ancillary staff, pupils, parents and the Board of Management.

Respect and Courtesy:

- All pupils are expected to treat staff and their fellow pupils with respect and courtesy at all times. The use of foul language and any form of bullying are unacceptable.
- Pupils must respect all school property and keep the school environment clean and litter free.
- Pupils must have all books and required materials each day at school.
- Pupils are expected to work to the best of their ability and to present their written exercises neatly.
- **Any form of behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to feel safe is unacceptable.**

School Rules:

Every pupil is expected to behave at all times in such a way as to bring credit to themselves, their parents and to their school.

1. School hours are from 9.00 a.m. to 2.40 p.m. for pupils from 1st Class to 6th Class.

School hours are from 9.00 a.m. to 1.40 p.m. for pupils in the Infant classes.

There is no supervision of pupils before or after these times. These times must be strictly adhered to. Pupils cannot be left unattended in the school yard before opening time or after closing time.

2. Regular attendance is encouraged. If a pupil is absent, a school note of absence must be sent into school with the pupil on his/her return. If a pupil is absent for twenty days or more, he/she will have to be reported to Tusla (in accordance with the Education (Welfare) Act 2000).
3. All pupils must wear their full school uniform daily to school with the exception of P.E. days when a navy tracksuit must be worn. Pupils are not permitted to wear any head-gear during class time.
4. Politeness, courtesy, respect and good manners are expected at all times. Pupils must not behave in any way that endangers themselves or others. Any form of threatening behaviour is unacceptable.
5. The use of swear words and inappropriate language is strictly forbidden.
6. Pupils must enter and leave the school building in an orderly fashion and must line up quietly when they are required to do so.
7. Pupils should have respect for school property and furniture.
8. Pupils must stay on school grounds during break times and are not permitted to go behind the school.
9. If a pupil needs to re-enter the school building during break-times, permission from the teacher/S.N.A. on duty must be sought. The pupil should inform the teacher/S.N.A. when he/she returns to the yard.
10. If a teacher has to leave the classroom for any reason, pupils must remain seated quietly.
11. Glass bottles and chewing gum are forbidden.
12. Parents should check that homework is completed satisfactorily and sign the homework journal daily.
13. All members of the school community should adhere to the acceptable use of social media (see 'Social Media Policy')
14. Pupils should not wear make-up and only stud earrings may be worn.
15. Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones in school or on school trips unless a parent/guardian has sought permission in writing from the Board of Management. This permission will only be considered if the pupil in question regularly walks to and from school. In such a situation, it is the pupil's responsibility to ensure the phone is switched off during school hours. Gaming devices are not permitted in school or on school trips.

16. Pupils will only be permitted to walk home from school when a permission slip has been signed by a parent and received by the Principal. The school accepts no responsibility for pupils coming to or going home from school.

17. All instructions given by a supervising teacher/S.N.A. must be complied with.

Rewards and Sanctions:

Rewards:

This policy seeks to improve behaviour by positive means and so teachers employ a range of rewards. Positive behaviour is encouraged through a range of reward strategies such as verbal praise, weekly reward systems, stickers, stars, prizes and group or class concessions. Teachers will praise both academic and non-academic achievement.

Sanctions and Disciplinary Procedures:

Teachers may deal with unacceptable behaviour in the following ways:

- Reason with the pupil and advise on an improvement in behaviour.
- Verbally reprimand the pupil and advise on an improvement in behaviour.
- Communicate with Parents. (This open communication is seen as central to fostering positive behaviour at St Paul's)
- Loss of privileges and/or prescription of additional work.
- Refer to Principal teacher.
- Pupils who misbehave frequently may not be allowed to participate in school outings for their own safety and that of other pupils.
- Temporary suspension (in extreme situations and in full consultation with the Board of Management and with the parents of the pupil concerned). The maximum period of an initial suspension is three school days.
- The Principal and/or Chairperson are authorised by the Board of Management to suspend immediately in the event of gross misbehaviour.

Bullying:

Bullying is repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or groups against others. Isolated incidents of aggressive behaviour, which should not be condoned, cannot be described as bullying. However, when the behaviour is systematic and on-going, it is bullying. At the centre of our school's response to bullying is the continued development of a positive school environment which focuses on respect for the individual. It is an important element of school policy to raise the awareness of bullying and cyber-bullying as forms of unacceptable behaviour. An Anti-Bullying Policy for St Paul's N.S. is in place and includes the procedures for investigating and dealing with bullying.

Where the Policy Applies:

This policy relates to in-school activities, out of school activities during school times and also to all other school-related activities.

Monitoring and Review:

This policy, in accordance with the Education Act 1998, will be regularly reviewed by representatives of the Patron, the Board of Management, parents and teachers.

Modification Clause:

The Board of Management reserve the right to modify details of the Code of Behaviour at short notice. Such modification may be needed in an ever-changing environment and social context.

Policy Ratified on: _____

Signed by: _____

Dated: _____