

Notes

Code Of Behaviour

Opening Statement

Discipline within the school shall be seen as a collective responsibility-principal, staff, Board of management and parents co-operating to provide an environment in which the pupils can live full lives as children and avail of the opportunity to acquire skill and knowledge which will be essential for further development in secondary school and in adult life.

Discipline within the classroom is the responsibility of the class teacher and is largely a function of the relationship between the teacher and the child. Ideally this relationship is an extension of the child's relationship with his/her parents. Both parents and teacher want the best from the child and the child in turn will respond positively to praise or blame from either quarter/party. The B.O.M. of St. Brendan's at all times requests parents to play a positive role in addressing any disciplinary issues, which may arise with their children

In the school every effort is made to encourage good behaviour by using positive incentives- praise, merit awards, stars etc.

However, not all pupils will respond in every instance to a positive approach from the teacher and in such cases the teacher will of necessity have recourse to sanctions.

Repeated instances of serious misbehaviour are reported to the principal and a written record of all such instances is kept. Parents should be informed of instances of serious misbehaviour on the part of their children. The following behaviour will not be tolerated;

- Bullying – physical verbal or otherwise (please refer to Anti- Bullying policy)
- Threatening behaviour, verbal or physical, towards fellow pupils and staff
- Leaving school premises or grounds without permission during the school day.

- Kicking/fighting/spitting/throwing objects
- Foul and abusive language
- Deliberate disobedience
- Persistent misdemeanours
- Stealing
- Abusing the property of the school, themselves or others.
- Rough or dangerous play

Parents should avail of their right to information on their children's progress in school and should feel free to visit the class teacher or principal. Should problems of serious misbehaviour arise the teacher will invite the parents to come to the school and co-operate with the staff. Such meetings are by appointment only. Appointments can be made by ringing the school on 057-9121033.

Bullying is defined as *'repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical conducted by an individual or group against others'*. The more common types of bullying are:

- Physical aggression
- Damage to property
- Name calling
- Slagging
- Intimidation
- Isolation
- Extortion
- E-mail
- Text messaging
- Phone

Please refer to our Anti –Bullying policy for further information.

Teachers in St. Brendan's shall have recourse to the following Code of Sanctions should the need arise-

1. Reasoning with pupil
2. Reprimand by the class teacher - including advice on how to improve
3. Temporary separation from peers, friends or others
4. Entry in class record copy or yard supervision book

Notes

Pupils shall walk in an orderly fashion to their classrooms at the end of breaks.

Breaks (Wet Days)

On wet days, pupils shall be supervised indoors. They should;

- ⇒ Remain in their classrooms
- ⇒ Remain seated during the break
- ⇒ Carry out the assignments given by the class teacher for that particular break.

Please Note;

Written notification must be given to the school for all absences and the school is obliged to report all absences exceeding a total of twenty to the N.E.W.B.

The above code applies in the school at all times and to all school related activities. e.g. tours and outings.

6. Entry in class record copy or yard supervision book plus extra work.
7. Loss of privileges
8. Detention during breaks
9. The class teacher may request a report be sent home
10. The class teacher may request parent/guardian to come in and discuss the pupil's progress and behaviour.
11. The pupil is referred to the Principal and has name entered in the Principal's Record Book. The pupil is cautioned by the Principal at this meeting.
12. If misbehaviour continues the Principal may write to the parent(s) requesting they call to the school to discuss a problem with class teacher and the Principal. At this meeting, the parent(s) is informed that the next step in the discipline procedure is exclusion of the pupil from the school, for 3 school days, under the terms of Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by the Department of Education Circular, 7/88.
13. The pupil is excluded/suspended from the school for up to 3 school days. The parent(s) and the Chairman of the Board of Management are informed, in writing, regarding the suspension.
14. A further period of exclusion of up to 10 school days may be imposed to allow for further consultation with the pupil's parent(s). Permission from the Board of Management is necessary to authorise this further period of exclusion from the school.
15. In exceptional circumstances, the Board of Management may authorise a further period of exclusion should the particular problem persist. In very exceptional circumstances and in accordance with section 23(2) of the Education Act full expulsion of the offending pupil may take place.

GROSS MISBEHAVIOUR

In the case of gross misbehaviour on the part of a pupil, suspension shall take effect immediately, pending discussion with the parent(s)/guardian(s).

REINSTATEMENT

At the end of a period of exclusion/suspension the pupil in question shall present himself with a parent at the Principal's office. The pupil shall give an undertaking, in the presence of his parent(s) and the Principal to abide by the school's Code of Discipline.

The Principal then takes the pupil to the classroom. The class teacher and the pupils are informed that he is been reinstated in the class having given an undertaking, in the presence of his parent(s) and the Principal to observe the Code of Discipline of the school.

RECORDS

Teachers shall keep a written record of all instances of serious misbehaviour as well as a record of improvements in the behaviour of disruptive pupils.

BEHAVIOUR

Children attending St. Brendan' are expected to observe the following Code of Behaviour.

IN THE SCHOOL

1. Pupils shall be in the school grounds no later than 9.20am.
2. Pupils wear the school uniform every day except on P.E. Days and on swim days.
3. Pupils shall walk and not run from place to place in the school building.
4. Pupils shall address all teachers in the school in the appropriate manner – Ms., Mrs., Mr., followed by the surname.
5. Pupils shall respect all teachers, ancillary staff, fellow pupils and visitors to the school. Aggression, threatening or violent behaviour as well as name-calling and verbal intimidation of any kind cannot be tolerated.
6. Pupils shall respect school property – furniture, books, fittings, etc.

7. Pupils shall leave the school grounds at 3.00pm. and go directly home.
8. Pupils shall not cycle, skateboard or roller-skate in the yard.
9. For safety reasons facial jewellery must not be worn.
10. In accordance with our healthy eating policy pupils should not bring sweets, crisps, chewing gum or fizzy drinks to school.
11. Pupils are not allowed to have mobile phones while in school. In exceptional circumstances a phone may be left in the office before school begins and collected when it ends at 3.00 pm. Otherwise phones will be confiscated and must be collected by the parents at the office.

DURING BREAKS

All pupils shall go to the yard during breaks

Pupils who are ill, or for another reason specified by a parent, in writing, may stay in the lobby during breaks.

While in the yard, pupils shall avoid:

- ⇒ Fighting
- ⇒ Spitting
- ⇒ Kicking
- ⇒ Calling Names
- ⇒ Bad language
- ⇒ Dangerous games, e.g. bulldog, jockey backs, mock fights, the bumps, etc.

Pupils shall not enter the school building during breaks without the permission of a teacher on yard supervision.

Pupils shall not go outside the perimeter fence without the permission of a teacher on yard supervision.

Pupils are expected to help keep the yard letter free.

Pupils shall stop play and go to their assembly line as soon as the bell rings at the end of the break.