Plean Scoile

Behaviour Policy

Scoil Assaim BNS
Raheny

Scoil Assaim Behaviour Policy

'All children have a right to be educated in a safe and caring environment. Our school is a caring community, a place where every pupil is valued equally'.

Introductory Statement

This policy was reviewed in October 2023 by Ms. Áine Moriarty (Acting Assistant Principal) in collaboration with Mr. Kevin Gillen (Principal) and Ms. Rachel Kelly (Acting Vice Principal).

Rationale:

The original Code of Discipline was due for review around this time, and it was considered important that this policy should reflect the school's philosophy and ethos – *to educate each child to the best of his ability, and to lead pupils to early adolescence in the happy development of all their gifts and talents.* This Behaviour Policy will provide guidelines aimed at directing behaviour for the good of all pupils in our school.

Aims:

- To allow the school to function in an orderly and harmonious way, where children can make progress in all aspects of their development
- To create an atmosphere of respect, tolerance and consideration for others
- To promote positive behaviour and self-discipline, recognising the differences between children and the need to accommodate these differences
- To ensure the safety and well being of all members of the school community
- To assist parents and pupils in understanding the systems and procedures that form part of our code, and to seek their cooperation in the application of these procedures
- To ensure that the system of rules, rewards and sanctions is implemented in a fair and consistent manner

1. Guidelines for Behaviour:

The following guidelines for behaviour are based on the characteristic spirit of Scoil Assaim

- Respect for self and others. Respect works both ways for everyone. When we show respect we are also shown respect in return.
- Respect for school property and buildings
- Respect for their own and other people's property
- Follow instructions from staff
- Walk quietly in the school buildings
- Do their best in all school activities/lessons, including homework
- Listen to those who are speaking, including visitors to their classroom
- Be kind and show a willingness to help others
- Show courtesy and good manners at all times
- Uphold the guidelines for behaviour during school trips and when representing the school at various out-of-school activities

2. Whole school approach to promoting positive behaviour

'A positive school ethos is based on the quality of relationships between teachers, and the way in which teachers and pupils treat each other. This positive ethos permeates all school activities and helps in forming a strong sense of social cohesion within the school'

In our school we recognise the importance of taking a whole-school approach to promoting and recognising positive behaviour; a strong sense of community and co-operation is maintained among staff, pupils and parents.

Staff

As staff we aim to:

- Create a positive climate with realistic expectations
- Promote, through example, honesty and courtesy
- Model the good behaviour we expect from the children
- Provide a caring and effective teaching and learning environment
- Encourage relationships based on kindness, respect and

understanding of the needs of others

- Ensure fair treatment for all regardless of age, gender, race, religion, ability or disability
- Show appreciation for the efforts and contributions of all
- Teach the school's SPHE curriculum to support the Behaviour Policy – this aims to develop communication skills, appropriate ways of interacting and behaving, and conflict resolution skills. It also helps foster self-esteem and enables pupils to accommodate diversity.
- Ensure the Code of Behaviour is communicated to all new and temporary staff via Google Drive

Parents

All parents and guardians should aim to:

- Familiarise themselves with Scoil Assaim's Code of Behaviour and discuss the same with their child. Pupil's will sign the Code of Behaviour at the start of every school year.
- Encourage their child to abide by the school rules
- Encourage punctuality every day
- Encourage full attendance
- Support their child with their homework and communicate with the child's class teacher if homework is causing stress or proving too difficult for the child
- Inform their child's class teacher about illnesses / school absences via class messaging forums or email
- Ensure their child is wearing their full school uniform
- Encourage good behaviour and respect for others at all times
- Communicate with their child's teacher about factors likely to affect their child's behaviour in school
- Ensure mobile phones and smart devices are kept in school bags and switched off at all times until pupils leave the school premises. This rule applies to all school trips and outings. If a phone is used during the school day it will be confiscated by the teacher until 2.30pm. If a phone is confiscated for a second time, parents/guardians will be requested to collect it from the office.
- Be aware that school authorities do not accept responsibility for the loss of, theft of or damage to property of pupils in excess of school requirements, eg: bicycles, money, mobile phones, watches etc.

- To ensure children are not on the school grounds before 8.40 a.m. or remaining thereon after 2.45 p.m. as they are not covered by insurance, unless they are taking part in a school-organised activity.

Pupils

All pupils should aim to:

- Cooperate fully with your teachers / SNAs / substitute teachers / GAA coaches / visiting instructors to Scoil Assaim
- Complete your work to the best of your ability
- Present your work neatly in books and copies
- Get on with your work and let others get on with theirs
- Be on time for school and enter by the correct gate and door (between 8.40am and 8.50am)
- Always walk around the school with consideration for others
- Contribute to the development of the classrooms rules
- Enter and leave your classroom quietly
- Ask permission before leaving your classroom
- Complete all homework to the best of your ability
- Help to tidy up your classroom at hometime every day
- Wear your full school uniform
- Follow the six key elements of Scoil Assaim's Behaviour Policy
    - ➢ Be Safe
    - ➢ Be Honest
    - ➢ Be Respectful
    - ➢ Be Responsible
    - ➢ Be Kind
    - ➢ Be The Best You Can Be!

Board of Management

- The Board of Management is supportive of the staff in the application of a fair code of behaviour within the school.
- The Board of Management has been consulted in the ratification of this Behaviour Policy

3. Positive strategies for managing behaviour

'Every effort is made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to managing behaviour, placing greater emphasis on rewards and restorative practice than sanctions in order to set a positive atmosphere for learning'

We will display the **six key elements** of our behaviour policy in our classrooms and our school environment. They are as follows:

Be Safe
Be Honest
Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be Kind
Be The Best You Can Be!

Classroom

- 'Ground rules' in each class are consistent with the ethos of the school and are expressed in positive terms.
- Pupils have an input in devising class rules.
- Teachers ensure that pupils understand how they are expected to behave.
- A clear system for rewarding good behaviour and sanctions for misbehaviour is consistently applied.
- A variety of strategies and resources are in place to aid pupils in managing their behaviour- calm space, movement breaks, access to sensory room, choice boards, visual supports, fidget toys, brain breaks, mindfulness activities etc.

Yard

- A concise set of yard rules has been drafted which emphasises positive behaviour and makes clear what activities are permitted – all teachers and pupils are aware of yard rules. Our six key elements will provide the foundation for these rules. (See Appendix 1 and 2)•
- All pupils are encouraged to be fair and inclusive when setting up their games
- Rough play and inappropriate language are not allowed at any time
- A maximum of 15 pupils are allowed in the quiet area at one time and priority should be given to those who need it most
- No running or ball games are allowed in the quiet area
- Clearly outlined arrangements for supervision of yard times are in place.

- Children must ask permission from a supervising teacher / SNA to leave the yard e.g. going to the toilet. Teachers/SNA should always await the child's return to the yard.
- Pupils must abide by class rules when staying in class during break-time on wet days .
- All pupils comply with the 'freeze system' at the end of yard time.
- All pupils line up quietly when the bell rings.
- When the class teachers collect their lines, the children should walk in quietly to their classroom.
- Clearly outlined arrangements are in place for supervision of pupils who remain inside due to illness – pupils must have a note from a parent requesting they be kept in, and must sit quietly outside the office with a suitable activity.
- Clear procedures are in place to manage incidents of misbehaviour – reasoning, verbal reprimand, temporary separation from peers through time out and reporting to classroom teachers. The serious warning system will also be implemented when necessary. (See Appendix 4)

4. Rewards and Sanctions

Rewards and acknowledgement of good behaviour:

- Rewards, within class, are at the discretion of individual class teachers.
- Any pupil whose work and/or behaviour is considered satisfactory can earn points towards a reward.
- 'Pupil of the Week' is often used to acknowledge and reward good behaviour.
- Pupils can earn points towards 'Golden Time' on Friday as recognition of positive behaviour.

Strategies for dealing with unacceptable behaviour:

Behaviours are categorised in the school under minor and serious misdemeanours. The degree of misdemeanour will be judged by the teacher and/or principal based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity and frequency of such misdemeanours. Teachers will make every effort to understand the reasons leading to incidents of mis-behaviour, and when applying sanctions it should be the behaviour (rather than the person) that is the focus. Pupils will not be deprived of engagement in a curricular area as punishment for mis-behaviour.

The following are considered to be minor breaches of discipline (this is not an exhaustive list)

- Minor disruption of class work
- Failure to complete homework assignments unless adequate reason is given by parent or guardian
- Rough play
- Name-calling / inappropriate language
- Not staying within play area
- Running on corridors
- Lack of punctuality on a regular basis
- Less serious incidents of vandalism

The following are regarded as serious breaches of discipline and may be punished by suspension (each case will be considered on its own merits)

- Disrespect towards a teacher by word or deed
- Bullying (see our school Anti-Bullying policy)
- Violent behaviour towards another pupil causing him, or putting him at risk of, serious injury. As a general rule, retaliation is not accepted as an excuse
- Vandalism to property
- Pushing on stairs
- Leaving the school grounds without permission from a teacher
- Repeated incidents of less serious breaches

Misbehaviour is initially dealt with by the class teacher by way of advice/warning, but if it is more serious or persistent the principal and/or parents may be involved. When sanctions are necessary it must be clear why they are being applied, the consequence must relate as closely as possible to the behaviour, and it must be made clear what changes in behaviour are required to avoid future sanctions. Group punishment should be avoided as it breeds resentment. The aim of any sanction is to prevent the behaviour occurring again, and if necessary to help the pupil devise strategies for this.

The following sanctions (listed in order of severity) are used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour.

Sanctions

1. Reasoning with pupil
2. Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve
3. Temporary separation from peers within class
4. Reflection Sheet (See Appendix 3)
5. Communication with parents
6. Loss of privileges (e.g. exclusion from yard, movie time, etc.)
7. Serious warning issued (See Appendix 4)
8. Referral to Principal Teacher
9. Detention slip issued
10. Detention after school (parents notified in advance)
11. Exclusion (suspension or expulsion) from school

Involving parents in management of problem behaviour:

Before resorting to serious sanctions, the normal channels of communication between school and parents are utilised.

- Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they have any concerns
- Parents are kept fully informed from the outset of instances of misbehaviour on the part of their children.
- Our school involves parents at an early stage, rather than as a last resort.
- In the case of gross misbehaviour, the Board authorises the Chairperson or the Principal to sanction an immediate suspension, pending a discussion on the matter with parents.

5. Suspension / Expulsion procedures

Suspensions / expulsion procedures are in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by Circular and Education Welfare Act 2000.

Parents are informed of their right to come to the school and are invited to do so in order to discuss the misbehaviour with the Principal teacher and/or the class teacher. This is always done when the suspension of a pupil is being contemplated.

In the event that a pupil becomes a danger to himself or to others, the parents will be asked to remove the child immediately, to allow time to put measures in place to ensure the safety of the child and the safety of others.

6. Keeping records

Each class has a 'Red Folder' with templates for recording instances of recurring misbehaviour. A written record should always be kept of incidents and of any communication with parents. Teachers on yard duty should record serious or repeated incidents of misbehaviour using the template (available in the folder in staff room) and ensure that the template is then given to the class teacher to place in the 'Red Folder'. The 'Red Folder' also contains reflection sheets.

7. Procedures for notification of pupil absences from school

In accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2000, parents must notify the school of a pupil's absence and the reason for this absence. All pupil absences are reported to the National Education Welfare Board.

8. Success Criteria

- Observation of positive behaviour in classrooms, playground and school environment
- Practices and procedures listed in this policy being consistently implemented by teachers
- Positive feedback from teachers, parents and pupils

9. Implementation and Review

This policy will apply from November 2023 – parents of all incoming pupils can access the Behaviour Policy and The Anti Bullying Policy on the school website or request a hard copy from the school office.

The operation of this policy will be reviewed in November 2024, and thereafter every two years.

Scoil Assaim Board of Management November 2023

Signed

_____