

# **Scoil Padre Pio**

**Code of Behaviour**

**&**

**Discipline**

# Code of Behaviour

Good behaviour is based on good relations between parents/guardians, child and school.

In *Scoil Padre Pio*, we hope to foster this ideal in co-operation with our parents/guardians. We have adopted a positive code of behaviour with emphasis on encouragement and reward so that good behaviour can prevail in our school.

The Board of Management of the school has ultimate responsibility for behaviour in the school. Within the school, the overall day to day responsibility for behaviour rests with the Principal. Each teacher has the responsibility for the maintenance of good behaviour and good order within his/her classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good behaviour within the school premises.

Parents/guardians can support the school by encouraging their children to understand the need for school rules, and by communicating any relevant concerns to the school.

## Aims of the code

- To create a positive learning environment that encourages and reinforces good behaviour
- To promote self-esteem and positive relationships
- To encourage consistency of response to both positive and negative behaviour
- To foster a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in pupils and to support good behaviour patterns based on consideration and respect for the rights of others
- To facilitate the education and development of every child
- To foster caring attitudes to one another and to the environment
- To enable teachers to teach without disruption
- To ensure that the school's expectations and strategies are widely known and understood through the parent's handbook, availability of policies and an ethos of open communication
- To encourage the involvement of both home and school in the implementation of this policy

## Good Behaviour

- All children, parents, teachers, school staff and visitors are to be treated with respect and good manners. Bullying, verbal and physical assaults and bad language will not be tolerated.
- All property belonging to the school, the children, the parents, the teachers, school staff and visitors must not be interfered with, damaged nor taken without permission.
- Children are expected to obey teacher's instructions and to behave properly while in the classroom, the corridor, the yard, the toilet and other areas of the school premises. This applies to occasions when the children leave the school to go on school trips. Any conduct likely to bring the school into disrepute will be regarded as a breach of discipline. Children will not have an automatic right to be brought on school tours. Children's behaviour throughout the year will be taken into account. It is open to the principal to withdraw a child from a tour at any time.
- Activities that are harmful to the children are strictly forbidden.

- The school encourages the wearing of the school uniform/school tracksuit. Shorts and tops can be worn in summer time. Acceptable standards of appearance and dress shall at all times be a matter for decision by the Principal.
- Be on time. School begins at 8.30 a.m. and ends at 2.30 p.m. The H.S.C.L. Co-ordinator will make contact with parents of children who arrive to school late on a regular basis. Infant children must be collected by a known adult at 1.00 p.m.
- Children must not leave the school premises during school hours unless directed to by a teacher or collected by a parent / guardian / known adult. Permission must be received from the Principal/Deputy Principal/Assistant Principal if a child is to be collected during school hours. If collected by a person other than a parent/guardian, the class teacher must be informed in advance. All children collected during school hours must be "signed out"
- Nourishing lunches are available in the school. Healthy eating is encouraged – fruit, yogurts and natural juices are allowed. Eating/drinking is not allowed outside of lunch times. Junk food and chewing gum are banned.
- Homework must be done.
- Children must abide by the school's Mobile Phones and Electronic Games Policy.
- A dated note signed by a parent/guardian must be given to the teacher to explain
  - (a) a child's absence**
  - (b) when homework is not done satisfactorily or not at all.**
- In order to maintain a high standard of discipline, a rewards scheme will operate for good behaviour while sanctions will be imposed on those children who misbehave. Sanctions will include extra school work, separation from classmates, loss of privileges, detention during school lunch time and suspension.
- The Principal will notify the parents/guardians of the children who are constantly disregarding the rules. Unless there's an immediate and satisfactory improvement in the child's behaviour, the matter will be referred to the Board of Management which may consider suspension in cases of serious misconduct or repeated incidents of minor offences.
- In the case of gross misbehaviour the Board of Management shall authorise the Principal or Chairperson to sanction an immediate suspension pending a discussion of the matter with parents/guardians. The school reserves the right to bring children home in cases of serious breaches of discipline. The Principal will determine what incident(s) constitutes such a breach.
- The Board of Management and teaching staff are bound by Rule 130 of "Rules for National Schools under the Department of Education" as included in Circular 20/'90 issued by the Department of Education. (This rule was amended by Circular 7/'88). The Board is also bound by the requirements of the Education Act of 1998 and the Education Welfare Act of 2000.

### **The procedure for suspension is as follows:**

1. A record will be kept in the school of all instances of serious misbehaviour by pupils.
2. Parents will be invited to meet the class teacher, the Principal and/or the Chairperson to discuss serious incidents of misbehaviour.
3. Communications to parents regarding the suspension of a pupil or the possibility of suspension will be in writing. (Copies of all correspondence will be retained)
4. A written statement of the terms and date of the termination of a suspension will be given to parents.
5. The maximum initial period of suspension will be three school days. A special decision of the Board of Management is necessary to authorise a further period of exclusion up to a maximum of ten school days to allow for consultation with the pupil or pupil's parents/guardians. In exceptional circumstances, the Board of Management may authorise an extended period of exclusion in order for further consideration.

When a period of suspension ends, the pupil will be re-admitted formally to the classroom by the Principal; and

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

### **• The procedure for expulsion is as follows:**

(a) See 1 & 2 Re: Suspension

(b) Procedure as in section 24, Part III of Education (Welfare) Act, 2000.

### **Children with Special Needs**

All children are required to comply with the code of behaviour. However the school recognises that children with special needs may require assistance in understanding certain rules. Specialised behaviour plans will be put in place in consultation with parents and the class teacher, learning support/ resource teacher, and or principal will work closely with home to ensure that optimal support is given. Cognitive development will be taken into account at all times. Professional advice from psychological assessments will be invaluable.

The children in the class or school may be taught strategies to assist a pupil with special needs adhere to the rules and thus provide peer support. This will be done in a supportive and safe way, acknowledging and respecting the difference in all individuals.

### **Communicating with Parents**

Communicating with parents is central to maintaining a positive approach to dealing with children. Parents and teachers should develop a joint strategy to address specific difficulties, in addition to sharing a broader philosophy which can be implemented at home and in school.

A high level of co-operation and open communication is seen as an important factor encouraging positive behaviour in the school. Structures and channels designed to maintain a high level of communication among staff and between staff, pupils and parents have been established and are being reviewed regularly.

Parents are encouraged to talk in confidence to teachers about any significant developments in a child's life (in the past or present), which may affect the child's behaviour.

The following methods of communication are to be used within the school:

- Informal/formal parent/teacher
- Through children's homework journal (infants do not have a homework journal, please check bags for notes)
- Letters/notes from school to home and from home to school

- School notice board
- Newsletters/school web-site/e-mails
- TextaParent service.

I agree to abide by this Code of Behaviour. Signed:

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_

School Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Ratification**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of the Board of Management