

Scoil Mhuire
Ballymore Eustace
Co. Kildare
18055B



Scoil Mhuire

Code of Behaviour
Anti-Bullying Policy

Code of Behaviour

It is the policy of Scoil Mhuire to create a positive school ethos where learning and development can take place. Discipline and school rules are based on mutual respect for each other among teachers, parents, pupils and management. Successful discipline is enhanced when these partners work together. The aim is to ensure that the learning environment is safe, attractive and motivating, and that disruption is minimised to create an orderly environment conducive to teaching and learning.

Our vision is that pupils develop a sense of pride in their school as a place where they feel they belong and their contribution is valued. We aim to promote not only the academic well-being of our pupils, but also to offer care and support. This policy celebrates the school as a place that is dedicated to quality learning and teaching, and that is supportive of all who form part of the school community. This school has a very strong bullying awareness policy and every effort is made to eliminate bullying. Two-way communication and co-operation between parents and staff is seen as vital in developing meaningful partnerships. Every possible effort is made to ensure that the policy is clearly understood by pupils, teachers and parents and that it is applied in a fair and consistent manner.

The following strategies may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour:

- (a) Reasoning with a pupil
- (b) Reprimand, including advice on how to improve
- (c) Temporary separation from peers
- (d) Communication about the behaviour with Parents
- (e) Loss of privileges
- (f) Detention during break
- (g) Referral to Principal
- (h) Prescribing additional work
- (i) Temporary suspension

Teachers shall keep a proper record of all instances of:

- Persistent minor misbehaviours
- Serious misbehaviour
- Improvements in the behaviour of pupils

In the case of exceptional misbehaviour, the Principal reserves the right to immediately take whatever action is appropriate.

Before resorting to serious sanctions, e.g. suspension, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Communication with parents will be verbal or by letter. The parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's behaviour. For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, suspension will be considered. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a fellow-pupil or member of staff will be regarded as serious misbehaviour. Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of management will be informed and the pupil's parents will be requested in writing to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson and Principal. If, following this meeting, the pupil continues to behave in an unacceptable manner, the pupil may be suspended for a temporary period. For continuously disruptive behaviour or for a serious breach of discipline, the pupil may be excluded from school for the maximum initial period of three school days. A special decision of the Board of Management is required to authorise a further period of exclusion up to a maximum of ten school days to allow for consultation with the pupil's parents or guardians.

Communication with parents regarding the suspension of a pupil shall be in writing. A written statement of the terms and date of termination of a suspension shall be sent to the parents. When the period of suspension ends, the pupil shall be formally re-admitted to the class by the Principal.

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 Chairperson of the Board of Management or the Principal. Maximum effort is invested in integrating the new intake of pupils into the life of the school. The implementation and frequent evaluation of this policy will be a consistent and shared responsibility.

- 1. Pupils shall show respect and courtesy to all members of the school staff and to each other.**
- 2. Pupils must respect school property and accidental damage should be reported immediately to the Principal.**
- 3. Pupils must take good care of their books and property. Books, coats and jumpers should be clearly labelled with the pupil's name.**
- 4. No child may leave the school during break or lunch time or before the official closing time. If for any reason a parent wishes to take a child before the usual closing time, a note from parents is required and the pupil must be collected at his/her classroom door.**
- 5. If a pupil is absent for a day or half a day, parents are required to send a dated note giving the reason for the absence to the class teacher on the child's return to school. The Principal is required under legislation to contact the National Educational Welfare Board to report any child who is absent in excess of 20 school days in an academic year.**
- 6. When entering and exiting school premises, pupils must walk on the footpaths provided and are forbidden from entering through the vehicular entrance.**
- 7. Pupils who cycle to school must walk with the bicycle on school grounds and park it in the spaces provided.**

8. Pupils must not climb or cross any boundary or protective fence or building to recover a ball or any other object from a place outside any protective or boundary fence.
9. Pupils may use classroom taps only while teacher is in the classroom.
10. Football may be played in the school sportsfield but is forbidden in the school playground at any time. A change of footwear is needed for pupils using the field.
11. When pupils are using the stairs, they must keep to the lefthand side, use the handrail and always walk carefully. No running is permitted in classrooms, corridors, stairs or toilets.
12. In the interest of safety and hygiene, tippex, glass bottles, aerosols, knives, matches, lighters, chewing-gum, peanuts/peanut products, crisps(or related foods) are forbidden in the school. All food and drink is to be consumed indoors.
13. Any games that, in the opinion of the teacher, are deemed to be dangerous will be forbidden.
14. Because of the Scoil Mhuire anti-bullying policy, greeting cards or invitations of any kind will not be permitted to be passed among pupils in school or on the school playground.
15. Where it is absolutely necessary that a pupil must carry a mobile phone to school, it may only be switched on outside the school gates. At all other times all phones, (even silent models) must be switched off and kept in schoolbags. If a phone rings or is produced in class or between classes, the phone will be confiscated and returned only to the pupil's parents/guardians. A camera phone may not be brought into the school under any circumstances. The mobile phone is the sole responsibility of the pupil and the school does not accept liability if the phone is lost or stolen. Pupils bring phones to school at their own risk.
Parents should note that a pupil can always ask to use the main school phone if an emergency arises.



BULLYING AWARENESS POLICY

Bullying is a problem many children encounter and it requires co-operation among pupils, teachers and parents in seeking solutions. Our aim is to provide an environment where everybody who attends this school feels safe and secure. With this in mind a very serious view is taken of physical, verbal or emotional bullying and it will not be tolerated.

The meaning of bullying is clearly explained to all pupils. They learn that for behaviour to be classed as bullying it must have taken place more than once. The Principal is informed of all cases of serious or persistent bullying. Pupils are always encouraged to tell their teachers if they are being bullied or have witnessed other pupils being bullied. All pupils learn the school code for dealing with bullies.

ANTI-BULLYING CODE

- 1. Say "No".**
- 2. Get away.**
- 3. Tell an adult.**
- 4. Keep telling until someone helps.**

The anti-bullying code is taught to pupils at the beginning of each school term and is revised regularly. A bullying awareness week is held in October annually with activities for all classes. Written records of bullying and alleged bullying are kept and the Principal takes appropriate action to help both the bullies and the victims of bullying.

Parents are asked to report any concerns about bullying to the class teacher or Principal and under no circumstances approach a suspected bully. Communication with the parents of both bullies and victims of bullying is seen as essential.

Ratification

This revised Policy was ratified by the Board of Management at its meeting on 4th December 2017.

John McCarville
Chairperson Board of Management

Date

Alan Hobbins
Principal

Date