

Mol an Óige Steiner NS

Code of Behaviour

This Code of Behaviour was drawn up by all staff members on 12th November, 2008 and initially ratified by the Board of Management on Thursday, 27th November, 2008.

The Code of Behaviour is to be distributed to the families of all pupils, who will be invited to submit written suggestions by December 12th, 2008. The Code of Behaviour is to be amended and reviewed by staff members and the Board of Management by the end of June 2009.

Mission Statement

Education for the Head, Hands and Heart

Mol an Óige is a multidenominational Steiner National School. We are a community of parents, children and staff. We are committed to providing a safe, secure environment for the children.

We are a multidenominational school and we believe that children of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds have a right to an education that respects their individual identity whilst exploring the different values and traditions of the world in which they live.

The school is a community of learning that fosters a knowledge and respect for ourselves, for others and the world we live in.

The children leave school having acquired a love of learning and a confidence in themselves and in their own individual abilities and aptitudes.

The experience of learning should be meaningful for the children and respond to who they are as individuals and the world in which they live.

A thematic integrated approach is central to our work with a strong emphasis on active learning and the arts.

Self-Esteem

It is recognised that self-esteem is essential to the development of every child. Mol an Óige National School is committed to making every effort to foster the growth of self-esteem in each and every pupil.

Parents have a vital role in this. Parents can help their children to learn and practise good behaviour and have a positive attitude towards themselves, towards other people and towards the school. It is vitally important that good behaviour be acknowledged and encouraged. Children's development as mature, independent and strong persons depends on the quality of recognition and encouragement they get as children. **Your child depends on you as parents and on us as teachers for this recognition and encouragement.**

Mol an Óige and tiocfaidh sí

Aims of the Code of Behaviour

The aims of this Code of Behaviour are:

- to develop in the children a sense of self discipline and an acceptance of responsibility for their own actions;
- to create conditions for an orderly community in which effective learning can take place, in which there is mutual respect between all members, and where there is proper concern for the environment.

These are achieved in the framework of a relaxed, pleasant atmosphere, in which children are encouraged to give of their best, both in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities and are stimulated to fulfil their potential.

Why do we need a Code of Behaviour?

1. To make pupils aware of the necessity of good conduct.
2. To make school a safe place for all.
3. To encourage in all pupils respect for themselves and for others.

4. Without good order and discipline, the educational standards, which parents have a right to expect, will fall.
5. To assist each pupil to achieve the highest standard possible of personal maturity and self-discipline before leaving our school.
6. Mutual respect and co-operation are necessary to achieve a productive classroom, playground and school atmosphere.

Objectives

- That the pupils will show respect and consideration for their peers, their teachers and any other person within the school premises.
- That they will maintain an acceptable code of conduct within the classroom and within the school.
- That they will be aware that courtesy and good behaviour will be expected of them at all times, both inside and outside of school.

Misbehaviour in School

Pupils who do not adhere to the Code of Behaviour will be deemed to be misbehaving. To differentiate between the seriousness of acts of misconduct and to allow the School to respond appropriately, two broad areas of Misbehaviour are identified and the procedures to deal with them outlined. They are:

1. Unacceptable Misbehaviour
2. Serious Misbehaviour

Unacceptable Behaviour

The following will be considered to the Unacceptable Behaviour

1. Lack of Punctuality.
2. Refusal to do homework assignments
3. Eating chewing gum

4. Persistent and disruptive talking and answering out of turn, along with sniggering at other children is not acceptable. Unnecessary moving about the classroom disrupts the teacher and wastes pupils' learning time.
5. Breaches of the School Rules (see School Rules)
6. Any conduct which contravenes the spirit of this Code

Procedure

The following steps will be taken in full or in part until a satisfactory resolution is achieved.

Step 1: A verbal warning will be given

Step 2: Pupil is moved / isolated with the classroom.

Step 3: Pupil may be moved temporarily to another classroom. The duration of this move will be decided by the Principal and the teacher.

Step 4: The parent of any child who has been moved to another class will be asked to discuss their child's behaviour with the Class Teacher.

Step 5: The matter may be referred to the Board of Management.

Serious Misbehaviour

The following will be considered to be Serious Misbehaviour

1. Personal Abuse
 - a. Deliberate abuse (aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour) of any member of the School Community - pupils, teachers, ancillary staff, parents, Board of Management.
 - b. Bullying (see Anti-Bullying Policy)
2. Leaving the school premises or grounds without permission.
3. Abuse of property - deliberate abuse of school property or property belonging to any member of the School Community.
4. Deliberate use of bad language, lewd language or gestures.
5. Deliberately disobeying instructions of staff or adults in charge.
6. Deliberately lying to a member of staff or adult in charge.

Procedure

The following steps will be taken in full or in part until a satisfactory resolution is achieved.

Step 1: The Principal records the incident in a Serious Misconduct Book and notes the intervention undertaken to address this incident.

Step 2: The Principal speaks to the pupils concerned.

Step 3: The Principal and Class Teacher speak to the pupil's parents/guardians.

Step 4: The matter is referred to the Board of Management which may

- ❖ Suspend the Pupil for three days
- ❖ Suspend the Pupil for a further three days
- ❖ Authorise a further exclusion, to a maximum of ten school days, to allow for consultation with the parents/guardians.
- ❖ In exceptional cases further exclusion may be authorised to enable the matter to be reviewed.

Step 5: Exclusion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with the Rule for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000. Before suspending or expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Local Welfare Education Officer in writing in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.

Removal of Suspension (Reinstatement)

Following or during a period of suspension, the parent/s may apply to have the pupil reinstated to the school. The parent/s must give a satisfactory undertaking that a suspended pupil will behave in accordance with the school code and the Principal must be satisfied that the pupil's reinstatement will not constitute a risk to the pupil's own safety or that of the other pupils or staff. The Principal will facilitate the preparation of a behaviour plan for the pupil if required and will re-admit the pupil formally to the class.

In-School Strategies for Managing Behaviour

- ❖ Each classroom has a set of classroom rules which has been drawn up with all pupils. These classroom rules are reflected in the Golden Rules outlined in the Code of Behaviour.
- ❖ Teachers can use activities such as Circle Time, the Social, Personal and Health Education Programme (SPHE) and extra-curricular

- opportunities as vehicles for teaching skills for responsible behaviour and relationships.
- ❖ Individual pupils who may be experiencing behavioural difficulties are discussed at the weekly staff meetings so that all staff members can work together in supporting the pupils needs.
 - ❖ All teaching staff, parents and visiting adults to the school can contribute significantly to the overall ethos of the school by modelling the school's standard of behaviour.

School Rules

Golden Rules

Be Gentle with Others. We do not hurt anyone.

Be Kind and Helpful. We do not hurt people's feelings.

Work Hard. We do not waste our time or other people's time.

Look after property. We do not waste or damage things.

Listen to people. We do not interrupt others.

Be honest. We never cover up the truth.

1. School Times are from 9.20am- 2/3pm. School is **not** responsible for supervision of your child/children before or after these times. Unnecessary stress for children can be avoided if they arrive on time for school and are collected punctually at the end of the day.
2. The School operates a healthy eating policy. Children should bring a healthy lunch for your child, which should include fruit, bread etc. no bars, sweets, chocolate, crisps or juice. We provide all drinks for the

Juniors. Older children may bring water, milk, herbal tea or soup to drink.

3. In relation to dropping off/collecting your children, the following is not only a clause in our contract with the landowner of our new site, but is also a condition of our being granted planning permission originally:

" that students of the school & their parents do not at any time obstruct the entrance to the Falls Hotel or use or enter onto the grounds of the Falls Hotel for purposes ancillary to activities connected to the school, including the driving into and/or parking of vehicles there by parents leaving off or collecting children or those of teachers attending the school, or by vehicles, equipment or materials involved with any works carried out to the premises"

This we must strictly adhere to and therefore we are insisting parents park their cars in the town and walk their children to the school through the V.E.C. entrance.

4. Mobile phones are absolutely **not** allowed except in exceptional circumstances which should be submitted in written form and discussed with the teacher. In these circumstances the phone must be handed in to the teacher on arrival at school grounds. If a child is found with a phone it will be confiscated & returned to the parent. This applies to school events outside of official school times as well.
5. Each child must have a waterproof jacket, waterproof pants, a hat and a pair of wellies and indoor shoes which will be left in school at all times.
6. A primary school is not an appropriate place to wear make-up. Therefore no make-up should be worn to school.
7. Juniors: As the children in Juniors go outside everyday, we would ask that your child wears layers of clothing. A spare set of clothes is to be kept in school, and indoor shoes to be worn inside. Each child in

Juniors should also have a coat that can be left in school for everyday and a separate one for coming in and going home in.

8. A note must be given to the pupil's class teacher explaining any absences from school. Parents/guardians are obliged by the Education (Welfare) Act (2000) to give a written explanation to the school for each absence. The school is obliged to record and report all absences and to report on them to the National Educational Welfare Board if a student has reached 20 days absence during the school year.
9. The school rules may be added to or modified by the Principal and Staff at short notice if there is a need to make a quick response to some new development or trend among pupils. The code will be reviewed at intervals set by the Board of Management.
10. The code is in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Recommendations of the Department of Education and Science.

This Code of Behaviour applies from the moment children arrive on school grounds and until they leave, and to all events or outings that may be organised by the school.

**Ratified by Board of Management on _____
Date**

**Signed _____
Chairperson, Board of Management**

I have read this Code of Behaviour with my child and will support Mol an Óige Steiner National School in implementing it in relation to my child while s/he is a pupil of the school.

Signed _____ Parent/Guardian Date _____

My parents have read the Code of Behaviour with me and I agree to follow the School Rules

Signed (from senior infants up only)

_____ Date _____
(child 1)

_____ Date _____
(child 2)

_____ Date _____
(child 3)