



*St. Colmcille's B.N.S.,  
Kells,  
Co. Meath.*



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## **Code of Behaviour**

The aims of the Code of Behaviour of St. Colmcille's B.N.S. are:

- To provide guidance for pupils, teachers and parents on behavioural expectations.
- To provide for the effective and safe operation of the school.
- To develop pupils' self-esteem and to promote positive behaviour.
- To foster the development of a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in pupils based on respect, consideration and tolerance 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.

### **Implementation**

Every member of the school community has a role to play in the implementation of the Code of Behaviour. Rules will be kept to a minimum, emphasise positive behaviour and will be applied in a fair and consistent manner, with due regard to the age of the pupils and to individual difference. Good behaviour will be encouraged and rewarded. Where difficulties arise, parents will be contacted.

### **General Guidelines for Positive Behaviour**

1. Pupils are expected to treat all adults and fellow pupils with respect and courtesy at all times. Behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to feel safe is unacceptable
2. Pupils are expected to show respect for all school property and to keep the school environment clean and litter free.
3. Pupils are expected to take pride in their appearance, to have all books and required materials and to be in the right place at the right time.
4. Pupils are expected to obey a teacher's instructions, to work to the best of their ability and to present assignments neatly.
5. Pupils are expected to attend every day unless there is a genuine reason for absence, in which case the school must be informed in writing, stating the reason for absence.

### **Bullying**

Bullying is repeated verbal, psychological or physical aggression by an individual or group against others. The most common forms of bullying are aggressive physical contact, name-calling, intimidation, extortion, isolation and taunting and cyber bullying. Bullying will not be tolerated and parents will be expected to cooperate with the school at all times in dealing with instances of bullying in accordance with the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.

### **Affirming Positive Behaviour**

Positive reinforcement of good behaviour leads to better self-discipline and we place a greater emphasis on rewards and incentives than on sanctions. With this in mind the school operates Discipline for Learning (DFL).

## **Strategies/Incentives**

- Rewards agreed for DFL.

### **REWARDS - INDIVIDUAL**

Each child will have a Stamp Book with nine pages, 10 squares per page in junior books, and 20 in senior.

Teacher at the start of the day lists the particular things for which he/she will be giving stamps that day.

1. Boys receive certificate for each page filled.
2. Three full pages - lucky dip.
3. Three more pages - lucky dip.
4. Full book Head Teacher's Award.

### **REWARDS - GROUP**

1. Class points may be awarded for behaviours predetermined by the teacher.
2. On attaining the required number of points the class are given, a "class treat" i.e. quiz, DVD, computer time, homework pass etc.

Also(at teachers' discretion):

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment on a child's exercise book.
- A visit to another class or Principal for commendation.
- Praise in front of class group.
- Individual class merit awards, points awards or award stamps.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- Written or verbal communication with parent.

### **Discouraging Misbehaviour**

The purpose of sanctions is to discourage misbehaviour. Sanctions will be applied according to the gravity of the misbehaviour, with due regard to age and emotional development. These may include:

- Sanctions agreed for DFL

The sanctions in use right across the school are as follows:

### **INDIVIDUAL**

**Step 1.** Oral warning.

**Step 2.** Name on D.F.L. Sheet.

**Step 3.** Consequence Sheet, to be signed by parent and removal to Bold Table in own classroom.  
If unsigned, sent to Office.

**Step 4.** Consequence Sheet and removal to Bold Table in another classroom.

**Step 5.** Frequent misbehaviour may lead to pupil being sent to Principal's Office. He will speak to them and, if deemed necessary, will give them a letter to bring home and have signed, notifying their parents of their misbehaviour.

If the misbehaviour is deemed to be serious or, after earlier warning, ongoing, the Principal will note their name in the Black Book. Any child who gets his name into the Black Book twice in any one term will automatically lose out on the Termly Treat.

**Step 6.** Principal sends for parents. After speaking to them they will be asked to call back to see the class teacher one week later to monitor how the child's behaviour has been in the interim.

**Step 7.** Suspension.

Also(at teachers' discretion):

- Reasoning with pupil.
- Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve.
- Prescribing extra work.
- Loss of privileges.
- Detention during break.
- Communication with parents.

### **Suspension/Expulsion**

Before serious sanctions such as detention, suspension or expulsion are used, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Communication with parents may be verbal or by letter depending on the circumstances.

For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension may be considered. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher or pupil will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour.

The Board may authorise the Principal to sanction an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding three school days, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents.

Suspension will be in accordance with the Rules for National Schools, the Education Welfare Act 2000 and the Education Act 1998.

Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with the Rules for National Schools, the Education Act 1998 and the Education Welfare Act 2000. Before expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Local Welfare Education Officer in writing in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.

### **Before/After School**

Parents are reminded that the staff of the school does not accept responsibility for pupils before official opening time of 9.10 a.m. or after the official closing time of 2.40 p.m. except where pupils are engaged in an extra-curricular activity organised by the school and approved by the Board of Management. Pupils involved in such activities are expected to behave in accordance with school behaviour policy during these times.

### **Board of Management's Responsibilities**

- Provide a comfortable, safe environment.
- Support the Principal and staff in implementing the code.
- Ratify the code.

### **Principal's Responsibilities**

- Promote a positive climate in the school.
- Ensure that the Code of Behaviour is implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
- Arrange for review of the Code, as required.

### **Teachers' Responsibilities**

Support and implement the school's code of behaviour.

- Create a safe working environment for each pupil.
- Recognise and affirm good work.
- Prepare school work and correct work done by pupils.
- Recognise and provide for individual talents and differences among pupils.
- Be courteous, consistent and fair.
- Keep opportunities for disruptive behaviour to a minimum.
- Deal appropriately with misbehaviour.
- Keep a record of instances of serious misbehaviour or repeated instances of misbehaviour.
- Provide support for colleagues.
- Communicate with parents when necessary and provide reports on matters of mutual concern.

### **Pupils' Responsibilities**

- Attend school regularly and punctually.
- Listen to their teachers and act on instructions/advice.
- Show respect for all members of the school community.
- Respect all school property and the property of other pupils.
- Avoid behaving in any way which would endanger others.
- Avoid all nasty remarks, swearing and name-calling.
- Include other pupils in games and activities.
- Bring correct materials/books to school.
- Follow school and class rules.

### **Parents/Guardians' Responsibilities**

Encourage children to have a sense of respect for themselves and for property.

- Ensure that children attend regularly and punctually.
- Be interested in, support and encourage their children's school work.
- Be familiar with the code of behaviour and support its implementation.
- Co-operate with teachers in instances where their child's behaviour is causing difficulties for others.
- Communicate with the school in relation to any problems which may affect child's progress/behaviour.

Reviewed by the Board of Management 8-11-'10