

CODE OF BEHAVIOR



Gaelscoil Ruairí
Maigh Nuad

This code was written using 'Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for Schools' 2008 by the National Education welfare Board. A meeting was held with the Parent's Association on the 17th of October 2019 as part of the drafting of this policy. It was discussed at Staff level and at Board of Management level.

School's Characteristic Spirit:

Gaelscoil Ruairí provides excellent child-centered, Irish-Medium education for all children. An emphasis is placed on creating a safe, friendly, inspiring and content environment to allow children to develop holistically, prioritising academic development as well as physical literacy and mental wellbeing. There is a particular emphasis on showing respect in our school; respect for ourselves, for others and for the environment.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989:

Gaelscoil Ruairí's policies are all written taking the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 into full consideration.

The Aim of the Code: This code aims to help us as a learning community to be well behaved and to learn effectively in school. This code of behaviour will help teachers, other staff members, children and parents work together towards an effective, safe and happy school.

The Principles of the Code:

- Providing clarity
- Affirming that everyone's behaviour matters
- Focusing on promoting good behaviour
- Balancing needs
- Recognising that relationships are crucial
- Focusing on personal responsibility
- Ensuring fairness and equality
- Promoting equality
- Recognising educational vulnerability
- Attending to the welfare of students
- Attending to the welfare of staff
- Promoting safety and freedom from threat

Strategies to Affirm and Promote Good Behaviour:

Good behaviour is an outcome of effective learning and good relationships, as well as an influence on how children learn. The teacher's duty of care is a professional duty of care, reflecting the teacher's training, skill and knowledge. We understand in Gaelscoil Ruairí that the day-to-day excellence of school management and classroom teaching will enable most students to behave in ways that support their own learning development.

This is achieved through;

- consistency
- clarity
- communication
- co-operation

We recognise that all children are different and every effort is made to cater for all children and all their differing needs.

Strategies for promoting good behaviour (The quality of relationships between teachers and students is one of the most powerful influences on student behaviour):

- positive everyday interactions between teachers and students
- clear boundaries and rules for students
- helping students themselves to recognise and affirm good learning behaviour
- involving students in the preparation of the school and classroom rules

Children, teachers and parents are responsible for the creation of a happy school.

In Gaelscoil Ruairí it is accepted that:

- Irish is the spoken language of the school
- we respect ourselves and others at all times
- we interact with each other in a polite manner at all times

School Rules:

1. Children can wear small stud-like, flat ear rings and a watch to school
2. Children keep their phones turned off and out of sight in their school bags if in possession of a phone
3. Children wear the correct uniform every day
4. Children do not wear make-up to school
5. We walk around the school

Reward System:

A school as well as a class system is implemented. The 'Cárta Stampaí' will be used with infants to encourage good behaviour.

Stamp Card:

Every child receives a Stamp Card at the beginning of the school year. Teachers present children with stamps when good behaviour is recognised around the school.

When the individual 'Stamp Card' has been completed, the child will be presented with a prize.

There will be a variety of prizes including; small toys, seeds with soil and pots to plant at home and the awarding of extra responsibilities to children.

Here in Gaelscoil Ruairí, a huge emphasis is placed on the speaking of Irish and other initiatives such as 'Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine' and 'Duais na Gaeilge' will be ongoing in the school (these will be evident in our Irish plan shortly). These complement the code of behaviour.

School Strategies:

An account is kept of unacceptable behaviour in the school. This record is used to devise a programme of intervention with the input of teachers, parents and the principal.

Changing Behaviour:

We understand that children's behaviour can change. Teachers and parents can influence some of the factors that are associated with the child's ability to change their behaviour.

The use of sanctions:

A sanction is a form of positive intervention.

School Sanctions:

- The teacher tells the child that the behaviour is unacceptable
- The child is separated from their group while remaining under the teacher's supervision
- The child stands out for a period during yard time
- The child can be asked to complete work in school or at home which has not been finished due to unacceptable behaviour in school

The Card System (From First Class on):

This aspect of the code depends on good cooperation, understanding and communication between teachers and parents.

This card system begins at the beginning of each school year.

A White card is given to a child as a result of any of the following: Unacceptable:

1. Behaviour in class/school/ yard
2. Speaking Irish
3. Class effort
4. Respect for school staff/other pupils/school property
5. Other

The classroom teacher makes every effort to speak to the child's parent/guardian on the day a card is given to the child.

After the third white card has been given to a child, a yellow card is given out.

A meeting is organised at this point between the child, the parent and the classroom teacher to discuss a programme of intervention.

This process is then repeated a second time. After another three white cards are issued, an orange card is issued. A meeting is organised at this point between the child, the parent, the classroom teacher and the principal to discuss a programme of intervention. This process is then repeated for a third time. After another three white cards have been issued a red card is issued.

The red card means that the child is suspended or expelled from the school and the parents are informed of this in writing.

The Principal has the authority to suspend a child for a period of up to three days at a time but must receive the Board of Management's permission yearly for this.

The principal must always receive authority from the board of management to suspend a child for a period longer than three days.

The Board of Management has the authority to expel a child from the school.

If this occurs, the parents and the child are given the opportunity to come and tell their story. Parents are also informed of the appeals procedure.

The school has the right to issue a child with a yellow or red card immediately if a serious incident occurs.

Examples of serious misbehaviour:

- Violence
- Where the safety of the child themselves or the safety of others is at risk
- Bad/offensive language

Suspending and Expelling Children from School:

Schools are required by law to follow fair procedures when proposing to suspend or expel a student. The requirement for fair procedures derives from the Constitution of Ireland, International Conventions and case law.

Fair procedures have two essential parts:

1. The right to be heard
2. The right to impartiality

When the school is considering suspending or expelling a child, the school must inform the child and his/her parents of the investigation and of the possible sanctions that could be associated with this. The opportunity to respond is given to the child and their parents / guardians.

The Implementation of the Code of Behaviour:

Parents were invited to be a part of this code from the beginning through school meetings. Every parent is informed of this code at the enrolment stage. Parents are often reminded at school meetings that a copy of this code as well as the other policies are available in the school. Complaints procedures are adhered to in the school and parents are often reminded of these procedures.

School Notice in relation to Children's Absenteeism:

At the beginning of each school year, forms are distributed to each parent to be filled in after any absenteeism. Parents must fill out these forms and return them to the school after absences. If a child returns to school after an absence, the class teacher sends home a form to be completed.

This code will be reviewed when necessary.

Cathaoirleach: Damhnait Uí Ruairic

Dáta: 27 Eanáir 2020

