

**Introduction:**

Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin will embrace and encourage education through the medium of the Irish language, and will strive to develop a love and respect for our country, culture, heritage and each other.

The school will operate under a joint Catholic/Protestant ethos acknowledging the unique contribution of both traditions and their denominational expressions in Irish life. Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin seeks to promote an understanding and appreciation of worship in both these denominations while also encouraging tolerance and respect for the values and beliefs of others.

The school will encourage its pupils to strive for excellence in all their endeavours both in school and in later life. The school will develop in its pupils a sense of place and a respect for our environment.

**Aims:**

- 1** In devising the code, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of the school. The aim is to ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated while acknowledging the right of each child to education in a positive and disruption free learning environment.
- 2** The school aims to function in an orderly and harmonious fashion- that permits every pupil to progress in all aspect of their development.
- 3** The school aims to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding, the recognition of individual differences and the acceptance of all.
- 4** Positive behaviour and self-discipline will be encouraged taking into account the individuality of every pupil and the need to cater for that individuality.
- 5** The school aims to ensure the safety and well being of all members of the school community.
- 6** The rules are positively stated in terms of what the pupils should do. A great emphasis is placed on positive reinforcement through praise, encouragement and rewards and great endeavour made to ensure that the system of rules, rewards and sanctions are implemented in a fair and consistent way.
- 7** A high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school and a high level of co-operation among staff and between staff, pupils and parents. It is our aim to assist parents and pupils in understanding the systems and procedures that form part of the Code of Behaviour and to seek their co-operation in the application of these procedures.
- 8** Overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the principal and deputy principal. Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within his/her classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good order within the school as a whole. A pupil will be referred to the Principal for serious breaches and/or for repeated breaches of the Code of Discipline. A record will be kept of any incident of misbehavior (teachers notes and in the office).

The following are examples of strategies which may be used when dealing with incidents of misbehaviour.

- Reasoning with pupils
- Reprimand(including advice on how to improve)
- Temporary separation from peers, friends or others.
- Loss of privileges.
- Prescribing extra work.
- Referral to Principal.
- Communication with parents – verbally or in writing.
- Suspension (Temporary), see Rule 130 paragraph 5 of Rules for National Schools.
- Expulsion, see Rule 130 paragraph 6 of Rules for National Schools.

**A degree of flexibility must exist to take account of individual circumstances.**

Every effort will be made by the principal and staff to ensure that parents are regularly informed of their children's progress and behaviour.

## School Rules:

The following are the school rules which govern behaviour in the school, yard and class:

### School Rules:

- 1 Irish is the language of the school and must be spoken **at all times** as far as possible.
- 2 Bullying of any type is not permitted in school.
- 3 Mobile phones are not permitted in school. Mobile phones are permitted only in cases of emergency and must not be switched on in class without a teacher's permission.
- 4 Pupils must stay on school property at all times. Pupils are not allowed to leave the school premises without a teacher's permission. Should a pupil need to leave the school early; with a parent/guardian, a teacher's permission must be sought. This permission must be sought in written form.
- 5 Pupils must display respect for other pupils, the staff, visitors to the school and for the school equipment at all times. Pupils must follow the teacher's instructions at all times. Pupils must not enter into any activity that would endanger themselves or others.
- 6 The school uniform must be worn on school days.
- 7 Pupils must walk, at all times, when in the school building.
- 8 The school has a healthy lunch policy that must be adhered to.
- 9 Chewing gum is not permitted in school.
- 10 Cigarettes are not permitted in school.
- 11 Best effort must be made in completing homework

### Schoolyard Rules:

- 1 Pupils must stand in line, in a mannerly way, outside of playtime.
- 2 Pupils must not engage in any rough play.
- 3 Pupils must stay within the confines of the schoolyard. They must not leave the schoolyard without the permission of the teacher on yard duty.
- 4 Every pupil must walk to their line and stand in line, in a mannerly way, when the bell sounds at the end of break.
- 5 On wet days pupils must stay sitting in their classrooms.

### Classroom Rules:

- 1 Pupils should have the appropriate books, copies and equipment needed when attending school.
- 2 Every pupil is expected to work to the best of their ability.
- 3 Pupils are expected to co-operate with their teachers and follow instructions at all times.
- 4 Behaviour that disrupts the learning of other children is not permitted.

### Procedures:

The degree of misdemeanours i.e. minor, serious or gross, will be judged by the teachers and/or Principal based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity/frequency of such misdemeanours, as follows:

Example of minor misdemeanours:

Interrupting class work / Running in school building / Talking in class line / Leaving seat without permission at lunch time / Speaking English in school/ Leaving litter around school / Not wearing correct uniform / Being discourteous/unmannerly / Not completing homework without good reason / Not having homework signed by a parent /Not standing correctly in line.

Examples of steps that may be taken when dealing with regular occurrences of minor misdemeanours:

Phase 1 (within the classroom)

- Prescribing additional work
- Writing out one copy of school rules as per Homework Journal OR
- Write out the relevant rule that was infringed to upper limit of 20 times.

All of the above to be signed by parent.

- Note in homework journal or discipline letter to be signed by parent
- Temporary separation from peers – class time/break time
- Sending child to another teacher

- Warning to pupils whose name appears in yard book more than three times. Note will be sent to parents if there is further misbehaviour in yard
  - Staying in detention at break with the principal
- (Misbehaviour in yard consists of any action that puts the safety of self/other pupil at risk).

Examples of serious misdemeanours:

Constantly speaking English in school/Constantly disruptive in class / Telling lies / Stealing / Damaging school property or other pupil's property / Bullying / Back answering a teacher / Frequenting school premises after school hours without appropriate permission/ Using camera phone in school/ Using mobile phone during school without permission / Leaving school premises during school day without appropriate permission / Using unacceptable language / Bringing weapons to school

Valuables should not be taken to school. The school is not responsible for the property of pupils left behind on the premises. All damage to school property, including removal of graffiti is to be paid for.

Examples of steps that may be taken when dealing with serious misdemeanours:

- Send to Deputy Principal.
- Send to Principal. Behaviour will be noted in the behaviour book in the office.
- Principal sends note in journal/letter to be signed by parent.
- Principal and class teacher meets with one/both parents.
- Chairperson of Board of Management informed and parents requested to meet with Chairperson and Principal.

Examples of gross misdemeanours:

Unauthorised absence from school "mitching"/Setting fire to school property / Deliberately leaving taps turned on / Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher or pupil/Smoking/Drinking alcohol/ Possessing or using drugs/Overt sexual behaviour/ Repeated bullying of other pupils.

It should be noted that these lists consist of examples only: It is not meant to be a totally comprehensive list of misdemeanours and procedural steps.

Teachers shall keep a written record of all instances of serious misbehaviour as well as a record of improvements in the behaviour of disruptive pupils. Before resorting to serious sanctions, e.g. suspension, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Parents will be involved at an early stage rather than as a last resort.

Communication with parents will be verbal or by letter, depending on circumstances. The parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case. For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension will be considered. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher will be regarded as serious or gross behaviour, depending on circumstances.

Steps that may be taken when dealing with repeated serious behaviour and/or gross behaviour.

Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents will be requested in writing to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson and Principal teacher. If the parents do not give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future the pupil may have to be suspended for a temporary period. Suspension will be in accordance with the terms of the Rules for National Schools.

In the case of gross misbehaviour the Board will authorise the chairperson or Principal Teacher to sanction an immediate suspension, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents.

Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case.

#### **The School Bus:**

Responsibility for discipline on the bus lies with C.I.E. and the bus company. C.I.E. has the power to withdraw the bus ticket from any child constantly misbehaving on the bus. All incidents of misbehaviour on the bus must be addressed to C.I.E. or the bus company. The school will inform parents of any incidents of misbehaviour on the bus that it hears of but has no authority on discipline matters on the school bus

**Parents Role:**

The support and co-operation of parents are essential to the effective and successful operation of the Code of Discipline. It is essential that parents are aware of the school rules; and that they explain the rules to their child/children stating that they support those rules. Parents should support the teachers in the promotion of good behaviour in the school. Parents will be informed at an early stage, either orally or in writing, when inappropriate behaviour occurs either orally or in writing. Parents are asked to keep in regular contact with the school, with regards to every aspect of their child's progress, by making an appointment for a meeting with the teacher, through the office. Parents should indicate what they wish to discuss at the meeting.

**Review of the Code:**

A copy of the code will be made available to all prospective parents during registration. All parents shall study the code, sign the form appended to the code and return it to the school indicating their agreement with its terms. It is a condition of attendance at the Gaelscoil that pupils abide by the rules and regulations set out in the code.

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