

## CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

### Introduction: Our Ethos and Educational Approach

We are a Church of Ireland School under the patronage of the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin. The school reflects the ethos and tradition of the Church of Ireland. Section 4 of the Deed of Variation states that the Trustees of the School “are charged with the responsibility of upholding the doctrines, moral teachings, traditions, practices and customs of the Church of Ireland as defined by the General Synod. The onus on the Trustees is to take all reasonable steps to ensure that any Board of Management shall manage and cause the school to be managed in a manner which will uphold and foster the Ethos”.

We aim to provide a happy, caring and safe environment of learning that has high standards and promotes Christian values. The duty is laid upon the Board of Management to uphold and be accountable to the Patron for so upholding, the characteristic spirit of the school (Education Act Section 15 (2) (b))

This ethos underpins our Code of Behaviour. It is also recognised that a high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community and respect for each other within the school as well as staff, pupils and parents working together collaboratively in the best interests of all parties and especially the children.

1. In devising this code and the code of Procedures and Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Bullying in Kill o’ the Grange National School consideration has been given to the particular needs of this 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 relatively disruption free environment.

“Kill o’ the Grange National School aims to serve its community by providing education at the highest level in conjunction, and with the co-operation of all the partners in education. The work of the school is conducted in an atmosphere of tolerance and respect for religious, social, physical and cultural differences”. (Ethos Statement)

2. Every effort will be made by members of staff to adopt a positive approach to question of behaviour in the school. This code offers a framework within which positive technique of motivation and encouragement are utilised by teachers.

The school places greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions in the belief that this will in the long run, give the best results. Reward systems are in place e.g. various classes receive ticks, marbles, smiley faces or tickets for positive behaviour, and can use these to earn rewards such as a homework pass or a trip to Meadowvale. Some classes use a class economy system where they earn “money” which they can use to buy a reward or a treat.

3. The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences.



4. It is agreed that 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.
5. Standards, guidelines and rules are reflected in our School Policies such as Health and Safety Policy. Rules are kept to a minimum and where possible are positively stated in terms of what pupils should do.
6. All efforts will be made to match the curriculum to the abilities, aptitudes and interests of each pupil. This should help reduce boredom, lack of interest or lack of progress.
7. The overall responsibility for behaviour within the school rests with the Principal. Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of behaviour within his/her classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good order within the school premises. A pupil will be referred to the Principal for serious breaches of behaviour and for repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour, which run counter to the atmosphere of tolerance and respect enunciated in the Ethos Statement.
8. The following strategies may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour. These are not in a particular order.
  - a) Reasoning with the pupil
  - b) Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
  - c) Temporary separation from peers, friends or others.
  - d) Loss of privileges
  - e) Prescribing additional work (possibly requiring parents signature)
  - f) Referral to Principal
  - g) Communication with parents
  - h) Suspension (Temporary)

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. This includes the Pupil Behavioural Plan as recommended by NEPS. Before resorting to serious sanctions e.g. suspension, the normal channels of communications between school and parents will be utilised. Parents will be involved at an early stage, rather than as a last resort.

9. Communication with parents will be verbal or by letter, depending on the 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, other adult or another pupil may be considered as serious or gross misbehaviour, depending on circumstances.



Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and parents will be requested in writing to attend the school to meet the Chairperson and Principal. If the parents do not give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future or if the pupil's behaviour does not improve the pupil may have to be suspended for a temporary period. Suspension will be in accordance with the terms of Rule 130 (5) of the rules for National Schools. No suspension shall be for a period of more than 3 days.

In the case of gross misbehaviour the Board has authorised the Chairperson and Principal to sanction an immediate suspension, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents. Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with Rule 130(6). Parents/guardians have the right to appeal suspension or expulsion (Section 28 – Education Act).

11. Parents/guardians must notify the school before 9.30 a.m. each day if child is absent. Notes from parents are required before or following any absence from school. The school is required to notify the NEWB (National Educational Welfare Board) when absences total 20 days in one school year. The school also has the right to notify the NEWB where (Section 21 (4) (d) of the Act) a pupil is not attending regularly.

Pupils should not be on the school premises before 8.30 a.m. unsupervised by parents/guardians. Children are supervised in their classrooms from 8.30 a.m. by teachers. Parents are asked to collect children promptly at 1.15 p.m. (Junior Infants and Senior Infants) and 2.15 p.m. for the remainder of classes.

13. Any child with emotional/behavioural difficulties will be referred to the appropriate services.
14. A copy of this code has been made available to all parents. In the belief that the most effective schools tend to be those with the best relationships with parents, every effort will be made by the Principal and staff to ensure that parents are kept well informed, that the school provides a welcoming atmosphere towards parents and that the parents are not only told when their children are in trouble but when they have behaved particularly well.

### **15. Other Related Policies**

- All School policies are available by email on request from the School Office and on the school website e.g. Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Statement, Health and Safety, Anti-bullying, Accident, Healthy Eating, Internet (AUP) are among some

### **16. Ratification and Review**

In formulating this code, the Board of Management consulted the body representing the parents of the pupils attending the school and all members of staff.

This Policy was last reviewed (and updated as required) and approved by the Board in April 2019 and will be reviewed regularly