

## Code of Behaviour Ballyheada NS

The code of behaviour aims to achieve three things:

- (a) The efficient operation of the school and the structuring of in-class discipline so that there exists an efficient and stimulating learning environment.
- (b) The maintenance of good order throughout the school and respect for the school environment.
- (c) The development of self-discipline in pupils based on consideration, respect and tolerance for others.

1. The code of behaviour is intended to ensure that each individual child gets fair play, while at the same time making sure that the general body of children have the proper environment in which to learn.

2. Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school.

Greater emphasis will be placed on positive reinforcement and praise rather than on punishment or criticism.

3. High standards of behaviour, depend on high levels of co-operation between parents, staff and pupils.

4. The school rules are kept to a minimum and are clearly stated.

5. All efforts will be made to differentiate work with regard to a child's abilities. A resource teacher is available in the school to assess and tutor any child who may be experiencing difficulties with their work. Teachers may recommend further assessment where necessary. No child will be referred for assessment without the consent of the child's parents.

6. The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the 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 premises. A pupil will be referred to the Principal for serious breaches of discipline and for repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour.

7. The following strategies may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour.

- (a) Reasoning with the pupil. (reflection sheet)
- (b) Reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
- (c) Temporary separation from peers, friends or others.
- (d) Detention during a break.
- (e) Prescribing additional work, including week-end work.
- (f) Referral to principal.
- (g) Communication with parents.
- (h) Loss of privileges i.e. participation in school tours and trips and organised after school activities.
- (I) Suspension (temporary).

With regard to part (h) any pupil who misbehaves while representing Ballyheada NS in a match/activity will not be allowed to partake in the next match/activity.

Teachers shall keep a 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 a last resort.

8. Communication with parents will be verbal or by letter, depending on circumstances. The parents concerned may be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case. If differences of opinion exist between the parents and teacher, this should not be evident to the child. For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, suspension will be considered. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher or pupil will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour.

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 the school to meet the Chairperson and the Principal. If 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 Rule 139 (5) of Rules for National Schools as follows:

- (a) Where the Board of Management deems it necessary to make provision in the code of discipline to deal with continuously disruptive pupils or with a serious breach of discipline, by authorising the Chairperson or Principal to exclude a pupil or pupils from school the maximum initial period of such exclusion - shall be three school - days. A special decision of the Board of Management is necessary to authorise a further period of exclusion up to a maximum of 10 school - days to allow for consultation with the pupil's or pupils' parents or guardians. In exceptional circumstances, the Board of Management may authorise a further period of exclusion in order to enable the matter to be reviewed.

Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with Rule 130 (6) as follows :

- (b) No pupil shall be struck off the rolls for breaches of discipline without the prior consent of the Patron and unless alternative arrangements are made for the enrolment of the pupil at another suitable school.

9. A copy of this code of behaviour will be made available to all parents.

10. 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 parents are not only told when their children are in trouble, but when they have behaved particularly well.
11. The code of behaviour will be reviewed at regular intervals.

Reviewed by Ballyheada NS Board of Management 3/02/20