

St. Safan's National School

Code of Behaviour

Development of the Code of Behaviour

Our Code of Behaviour has been drawn up in accordance with the guidelines of the Department of Education and Science and in consultation with the teaching staff and pupils in the school. It is underpinned by the principles of safety, fairness and mutual respect.

Aims

The aims of our Code of Behaviour are as follows:

- To create a safe, happy and orderly environment.
- To develop each child's sense of responsibility and respect for others and their environment.
- To give opportunities to the children to play and work in a creative and nourishing environment.
- To promote positive behaviour.

Principles

- Our school recognises the differences that exist between children and the need to tolerate these differences.
- It is agreed that a high standard of behaviour requires a sense of community within the school and co-operation among staff, parents and pupils.
- Every effort will be made to ensure that this code of behaviour is implemented in a fair and consistent manner.

Our plan to promote good behaviour

We believe that in order to promote good behaviour in the school, it is important that the children have input into the code of behaviour. Because of this, the pupils in the school identified behaviours that led to them feeling unsafe. They then helped come up with sanctions to discourage this behaviour. Outlined below are these rules which were drawn up collaboratively by pupils and teachers. Teachers and staff will also model the behaviour that is expected from pupils.

Behaviour

In our school we believe that focusing on promoting the positive is the most successful approach. To that end, the following is a list of some of the behaviours we encourage in the school:

- Being kind and considerate to pupils and staff
- Playing fair and taking turns
- Taking responsibility for actions
- Telling the truth
- Working diligently
- Doing your best
- Listening attentively
- Obeying the rules

Rewards

The following are some of the rewards teachers use in their classrooms to promote positive behaviour:

- Praise
- Stars/ Tickets
- Pupil of the Week
- Certificates
- Stickers/ Stamps

Programmes to help promote positive behaviour

- Circle Time
- Walk Tall
- Zippy's Friends
- Religion programme
- Stay Safe

While we promote and encourage positive behaviour, we also recognise that children may test the boundaries and therefore engage in misbehaviour. Therefore we have drawn up rules and sanctions to discourage this type of behaviour.

Rules

General Behaviour

- Don't hurt anybody physically, verbally, aggressively or by exclusion.
- Bad language is banned.
- Eating is only allowed at break times. Chewing gum is not permitted.
- No glass or sprays in the school.
- Pupils are expected to have all tools, books, copies etc for class.
- All pupils are expected to wear uniform.
- No stealing or interfering with another child's/ teacher's belongings.

Arrival and Dispersal

- Walk.
- Wear school bag on both shoulders.
- Put on your coat or put it in your bag.
- Keep your hands free.

Playground

- Stay within the school grounds.
- Stay out of the car park, flower beds and butterfly patch.
- Don't cross the yellow line.
- Don't lift anything off the ground or from the hedge.
- No toys.
- Don't use anything as a weapon to hurt another child.
- Play fair and include everyone.
- Don't use bad language.
- Always tell the truth.
- Listen to the teacher on duty.
- Walk in to school when bell rings.

Bus/ Field Trips

- Walk to the bus.
- Put on seatbelt correctly.
- Remain seated.
- No food or drink unless permitted by the teacher.

Classroom

- Sit properly on your seat.
- Remain seated unless instructed otherwise by the teacher.
- Work quietly.
- Raise hand to ask/ answer a question.
- Don't write notes.

Swimming

- Don't touch anyone else.
- Walk at all times.
- Listen to your instructor.
- No glass bottles.
- Wear goggles and a swimming hat.

Homework

It is the policy of the school to assign homework on a regular basis. The amount of homework will be dependent on the child's class. Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their child's homework.

Consequences of unacceptable behaviour

Although we endeavour to encourage good behaviour in the school, we recognise that it is necessary to have strategies in place to deal with unacceptable behaviour. The nature of the behaviour will determine the strategy and some strategies used are as follows:

- Reasoning with pupils.
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
- Grounding (short, timed periods of time removed from lunchtime play).
- Communication with parents.
- Loss of privileges.
- Referral to Principal.
- Behaviour recorded on pupil's behaviour card and taken home to sign.
- Suspension/ Expulsion (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools).

Procedures

The degree of misdemeanours i.e. minor or serious will be judged by the teacher and/ or the Principal and will be based on a common sense approach with regard to the seriousness/ frequency of such behaviour. Minor issues will be dealt with by the class teacher and may be referred to the principal where the issue occurs regularly. Serious misdemeanours will be referred to the school principal and parents will be informed.

Bullying

Bullying is repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical conducted by an individual or group against others. Bullying is unacceptable in our school and will be dealt with as per the school's anti-bullying policy. Cyberbullying of any sort will not be tolerated in our school and pupils will be involved in lessons each year addressing both bullying and cyberbullying.

Implementing the Code of Behaviour

The Code of Behaviour is accessible to all pupils, staff and parents and a copy is provided to parents at the beginning of the school year. Teachers in each class will teach the behaviours expected in our school and will use the Code of Behaviour in assisting their development of class rules. Behaviour will be monitored in the school to show patterns and the pupils will continue to be consulted in developing and implementing the school rules.

Suspension

Suspension is "requiring the student to absent him/ herself from the school for a specified, limited period of school days". The Board of Management has the authority to suspend a student. The decision to suspend a student requires serious grounds such as that:

- the student's behaviour has had a seriously detrimental effect on the education of other students.
- The student's continued presence in the school at this time constitutes a threat to safety.
- the student is responsible of serious damage to property.

A single incident of serious misconduct may be grounds for suspension.

Expulsion

A student is expelled when a Board of Management makes a decision to permanently exclude the student from the school. The Board of Management has the authority to expel a student. A proposal to expel student requires serious grounds such as that:

- the student's behaviour is a persistent cause of significant disruption to the learning of others.
- the student's continued presence in the school constitutes a real and significant threat to safety.
- the student is responsible for serious damage to property

Where expulsion is considered, school authorities will have tried a series of other interventions and believe that all possibilities for changing the student's behaviour are exhausted. There may be exceptional circumstances where the Board of Management forms the opinion that a student should be expelled after a first offence.

Implementation

This code will be implemented from September 2013.

Review

It will be reviewed at the end of the 2013/ 2014 school year at a staff meeting.

Ratification

This code was ratified by the Board of Management on 25 September 13. It will be circulated to parents at the beginning of the new school year.

Signed: (Rev.) Brian H. Goldrick
25.9.13