

Ballyvary Central National School

Code of Behaviour and Discipline

Aims of Primary Education.

The aims of primary education may be briefly stated as follows:

- (i) To enable the child to live a full life as a child.
- (ii) To equip him/her to avail himself/herself of further education so that he/she may go on to live a full and useful life as an adult in society.

Discipline in schools is an essential element in the socialization of children, in the formation of their characters and in the process of education. This requires the use of certain controls which, while not threatening children's independence, self-esteem and self-confidence, will enable them to appraise their behaviour rationally in terms of what is right and wrong or appropriate and inappropriate.

Aims of Ballyvary Central N.S.

The general aims of the school are to develop in each pupil:

- His/her full academic, social and physical potential.
- Awareness of, care for, and understanding of the environment.
- An acceptable manner of behaviour in a relatively disruption-free environment.
- Clear and accurate verbal and written expression.
- Creativity, inventiveness, adaptability and independence.
- Wide general knowledge.
- Sound moral values and attitudes, leading to spiritual fulfilment.
- Habits of industry and perseverance.
- Good interpersonal relationships, pupil to pupil, pupil to teacher and with members of the wider community.
- A high degree of self-confidence and self-reliance.
- Interest in activities of the community.
- Growth in the ability to make reasoned judgements and choices.
- Respect for property.

In devising the code, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances 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. Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school. The code offers a framework within which positive techniques 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. The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences. 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. The rules are being kept to a minimum and are positively stated in terms of what pupils should do. 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.

Policy Rationale

The core of the policy is our belief that in order for a school to function successfully all parties must abide by appropriate Code of Behaviour. We believe that each child in our school is entitled to an education and to school years free from bullying, distress or intimidation. We also believe that each teacher/staff member deserves the respect attached to his/her position and should be free to carry out his/her duty to teach and care. In devising our Code of Behaviour and Discipline, we hope to provide a framework for reasonable and responsible behaviour by all parties concerned in school life.

The aims of the Code of Discipline are:

Our code is based on natural justice, where the rights and individuality of each person are protected and respected.

- To help create a positive learning environment in which every pupil can benefit from school.
- To help pupils to become more self-disciplined and to encourage good standards of behaviour.
- To assist with the organisation of the pupils so that the school can operate smoothly for the benefit of all.
- To care in a practical way for pupils, staff, the school and its environment.

General Guidelines for Behaviour

All pupils are expected to behave in a responsible manner both to themselves and others, showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other pupils, teachers and other adults at all times.

Respect for Self

- Pupils are expected to come to school dressed in their school uniform, to be neat and tidy. They are responsible for the neatness of their own personal space and possessions e.g. books, copies, desktop.
- Pupils should be mindful of their own safety and never do anything to endanger that safety.
- Pupils are expected to make the best possible use of school time. They should come fully prepared with the necessary books, writing materials, P.E. gear, etc. and with all 'Homework' completed.

Respect for Others

Pupils are expected to:

- behave in a courteous manner towards others,
- Avoid abusive and disrespectful language
- cultivate a generous and sharing spirit
- avoid disruptive behaviour in the classroom, respecting each child's right to learn.

Pupils should behave in an orderly way when going from place to place within the school so as not to distract others from their work and avoid anything, which would endanger the safety of others.

A high standard of behaviour and respect for others is expected of pupils at all times. Pupils are reminded of this code at regular intervals and as preparation for all excursions i.e. when taking part in school-related activities such as school tours and nature walks.

Respect for Property

Pupils must:

- respect the property of the school and that of each member of the school community
- keep their classroom tidy
- avoid all actions which might cause any damage to property.

Roles and Responsibilities

The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the Principal Teacher. Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within his/her classroom while sharing a common responsibility for the good order within the school premises. A pupil will be referred to the Principal Teacher for serious breaches

of discipline and for repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour

Strategies used to deal with unacceptable behavior

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

- 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 - deprivation of treats/ school tour/ excursions
- E) Detention during a break
- F) Prescribing additional work
- G) Referral to Principal Teacher
- H) Regular report to Principal
- I) Communication with parents - phonecall informing the parents of the incident /behaviour in question or an invitation to meet the teacher
- J) Suspension (temporary)/Expulsion (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular 7/88)

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.

- Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Principal may suspend the child up to three days. If the behavior does not improve, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents requested, in writing, to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson and the 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.
- A special decision by the Board of Management is necessary to authorise a further period of exclusion up to a maximum of ten school days to allow for consultation with the pupil's parents.
- The ultimate sanction of expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, and shall only be considered as a last resort and with the prior consent of the BOM.

Every effort will be made to have an emotionally disturbed child referred for psychological assessment without delay. Help will be sought, also, from support services within the wider Community; e.g. Community care Services provided by Health Boards.

All members of the teaching staff have been involved in planning the code.

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,
- the school provides a welcoming atmosphere towards parents
- parents are not only told when their children are in trouble but when they have behaved particularly well.

Parents wishing to discuss any problems with their child's teacher should first make an appointment to do so.

The code will be reviewed annually or as and when required by legislative changes.

A copy of this code will be made available to all parents in the school after ratification by the Board of Management.

This policy was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management.

Chairperson: _____ **Date:** _____
Vincent McHale

Principal: _____ **Date:** _____
Mary Cunningham

Code of Conduct for Parents

Parents are expected to:

- Ensure their children attend school and are punctual
- Equip pupils with appropriate school materials, a sufficient healthy lunch and full uniform
- **Be courteous towards pupils and staff**
- **Make an appointment to meet with a teacher/Principal through the office.**
- Only approach staff regarding school business at the school and make an appointment if time is needed to address your concerns.
- **Under no circumstances will it be allowed to verbally abuse or intimidate a staff member either outside or inside the school. Such behavior will be reported to the board of management.**
- Respect school property and encourage their children to do the same
- Label pupils coats and other personal property
- Strictly supervise pre-school children, when in the school.

As the Board of Management is responsible for the Health & Safety of all staff and students, parents are requested not to approach or reprimand another person's child on the school premises. The school has a complaints policy for dealing with complaints.

This policy was drafted in the year 2016 by the teaching staff of Ballyvary Central National School and ratified by the Board of Management. The code will be reviewed annually or as and when required by legislative changes.

Chairperson: _____ **Date:** _____
Vincent McHale

Principal: _____ **Date:** _____
Mary Cunningham