

Code of Behaviour

This Code of Behaviour was prepared in accordance with the guidelines "Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for Schools" published by the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB, 2008). The Code of Behaviour also conforms with legislation as required by Section 23 of the Education Welfare Act (2000). The Code of Behaviour is available on the school website and a copy of the code is given to new parents before the beginning of the school year in September. The Code of Behaviour needs to be read in association with the school "Anti-bullying" and "Child Protection" policies. When parents enrol their child in Gortskehy N.S. they are agreeing to support the implementation of the Code of Behaviour and other policies in the school.

Our Vision:

The vision for relationships and behaviour in Gortskehy is that:

"Each individual through positive learning experiences will be stimulated to reach his/her full potential, face life confidently, find fulfillment and be respectful in an every changing world".

Aims:

The code aims at creating a caring, ordered environment based on respect and tolerance where each child can feel secure and confident. The code not only applies everywhere on the school premises but also applies at any school related activity whether on or off the premises such as school tours, swimming, sports activities, religious ceremonies etc.

Strategies to promote Positive Behaviour:

- Ensuring that pupils are treated fairly, equally and firmly;
- A quiet word or gesture to show approval;
- Matching work with pupil's abilities; A prize/reward carefully noted by the teacher to ensure that all children at regular stages during the school year are rewarded for effort/behaviour/skill etc. Teachers creating moments of success and then acknowledging them.
- A comment in a pupil's exercise book;
- A visit to another member of staff or the Principal for commendation;
- A word of praise in front of a group or class;
- Delegating some responsibility or privilege ;
- A mention to a parent – written or verbal;
- Teacher records improvement in the behaviour of a disruptive pupil;
- Implementation of Programmes such as Circle Time to promote positive behaviour.

The above list is not exhaustive and consists of examples only.

Golden Rules:

Children cannot remember long lists of rules. The expectations in this policy provide clear guidelines for members of our school community and pupils as to what type of behaviour is expected of pupils and adults within our school.

The Golden Rules on display on the classroom and toilet doors. These rules summarise for the children what is expected of them, in a language they understand. It is expected that the children will know them 'by rote' by the time they reach second class.

We are gentle	We don't hurt others.
We are kind and helpful	We don't hurt anybody's feelings.
We listen	We don't interrupt.
We are honest	We don't cover up the truth.
We look after property	We don't waste or damage things or take things that don't belong to you.

Expectations of Staff:

School rules are devised with regard to the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community. It is imperative that adults 'practise what they preach' in their interaction with children every day.

Staff are expected to:

- support and implement the school's code of behaviour;
- be cognisant of their duty of care;
- be familiar with and follow the school's policy on "Child Protection".
- create a safe, welcoming environment for each pupil;
- praise desirable behaviour;
- facilitate pupils to reach their full academic potential;
- recognise and provide for individual talents and differences among pupils
- be courteous, consistent and fair;
- keep opportunities for disruptive behaviour to a minimum;
- deal appropriately with misbehaviour;
- keep a record of serious misbehaviour or repeated instances of misbehaviour;
- listen, at appropriate times, to pupils' explanations for behaviour;
- provide support for colleagues;
- communicate with parents and staff when necessary, always with courtesy and respect;
- provide reports on matters of concern.

Expectations of Parents

Parents are expected:

- to nurture in their children a positive attitude towards school and try not to pass on any negative experiences parents may have had themselves while at school;
- to ensure their child attends school regularly and punctually in full school uniform with appropriate clothing for the weather so that their child will be warm and dry playing outside during breaks;

- to send a written note to the class teacher explaining their child's absence from school;
- to ensure the school has up-to-date phone numbers of family/friends to be contacted in case of an emergency;
- to arrange and ensure that a family member/friend is contactable and available to attend the school in the event of an emergency;
- to ensure their child attends school clean and with a good level of hygiene;
- to check their child's head regularly for head lice and treat as necessary;
- to ensure their child has a healthy lunch in school every day in line with the school's Healthy Eating policy.
- to arrange meetings with the class teacher and/or principal when they are concerned about any issue relating to their child;
- communicate with staff when necessary, always with courtesy and respect and to model good behaviour in their relationship with teachers;
- to encourage children to have a sense of respect for themselves, for others, for their own property and that of others;
- to be interested in, support and encourage their child's school work;
- to ensure that their child has the correct books and other materials;
- to be familiar with the code of behaviour and other school policies and to support the implementation of these policies (available on the school website);
- to co-operate with teachers in instances where their child's behaviour is causing difficulties for others;
- to communicate to the school problems which may affect a child's behaviour.

Expectations of Pupils

Pupils are expected:

- to listen to the class teacher, work hard, do their best and make best use of their time in school;
- to enter and leave the school building at all times in an orderly fashion. When the bell rings after play-time the children stop playing, change their shoes in the hall and walk to their classroom seat. Children do not enter the school building without getting permission from teachers.
- to walk within the school building and quietness is expected while children are getting ready to enter/exit class i.e. while queuing, while putting on coats in the hall etc. ;
- to treat all staff members, themselves and each other with due respect and courtesy;
- to stand back for an adult, to welcome visitors and to show respect to their elders;
- to never bully any person. Any behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to be safe is unacceptable. Fighting, rough play or any physical force is never allowed or tolerated.
- to never use bad language. Inappropriate language if used towards a teacher or anywhere within the school or while on a school activity is considered a breach of the code.
- to wear their full school uniform;
- not to bring chewing gum, glass bottles, correction fluids, other solvents, matches, cigarettes, alcohol or drugs to school either on the premises or to a school related activity;
- to not bring jewellery to school with the exception of one small stud earring in the bottom of each ear and a watch;

- not to wear make-up;
- not to cycle in school grounds unless taking part in safety training organised by the school;
- to not bring mobile phones to school unless on school tours/trips with the prior approval of the teacher. A child may bring a mobile phone or tablet to school with regard to an after-school activity but must hand it to the class teacher for safe keeping and retrieve it at home-time. If a child is found with a mobile phone in class it will be confiscated.
- to keep their hair neat and in its natural colour.
- to respect the school building and property. If deliberate damage is caused, the parent/guardian will be responsible for the cost of repair/replacement.
- to value our school environment. The playground is a litter-free zone. Fruit peels, pencil parings etc. are collected for composting. Waste paper, cardboard and empty carton drink containers are collected for recycling.
- not to leave the school grounds for any reason during school time.

On wet days children are expected:

- to do activities in class based on the class teacher's instructions or supervising teacher's instructions;
- to stay in their classroom (senior room) or play in the hall with their toys (junior room) and not run around;
- to never use sharp implements;
- to never use a tin-whistle except during music time.

When swimming children are expected:

- to wear a coat when travelling to the swimming pool except on dry, sunny days;
- to walk in line behind the teacher to the swimming pool. No running allowed;
- to never shout or run in the dressing rooms or pool area;
- to listen and obey the instructor and life guard;
- to wear a swimming cap. Arm bands are needed for beginners and shower socks may be worn;
- to never leave the pool from the side - unless under the instructor's directions;
- to never push or play roughly in the pool, pool area or dressing rooms;
- to dress quickly after each session;
- not to bring hairsprays or spray deodorants to the pool. Roll-on deodorants are allowed for 4th - 6th class pupils.
- not to buy drinks/sweets at the pool.

When on school trips/tours, children are expected:

- to enter/leave the bus in an orderly manner;
- to arrive 15 minutes before departure time; Parents are expected to contact the school 15 minutes before departure time if a child is sick or unable to attend.
- to keep the school rules as listed above;
- mobile phones or electronic devices are the pupils' responsibility. Teachers will have mobile phones on tour if parents/children need to get in contact with one another;
- to sit in their seats and avoid loudness that would distract the driver;
- to take drinks and sweets at the appointed lunch breaks;
- to stay in their appointed groups at all times;
- to wear uniform on school tours.

Dealing with unacceptable behaviour

Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within his/her own classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good order within the school. At the discretion of the class teacher a pupil may be referred to the principal for serious breaches of discipline, disruptive behaviour or repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour. The following strategies may be used as appropriate ways to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour:

- Reasoning with the pupil;
- Advice on how to behave;
- Reprimand;
- Temporary separation from peers, friends and others;
- Loss of privileges;
- Detention during break-time;
- Prescribing additional work for home or school;
- Referral to the principal;
- Communication with parents;
- Suspension;
- Expulsion.

Communication with parents may be verbal or by letter, depending on the circumstances. The parents concerned may be invited to come to the school to discuss the child's case.

Signed: _____
(Chairperson of Board of Management)

Signed: _____
(Principal)

Date: _____

Date: _____

Date of next review: _____