



CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Introduction

The Code of Behaviour for Scoil Naomh Treasa has been drawn up following a process of consultation between the Board of Management, teachers and parents. The code has been ratified by the Board of Management.

Mission Statement

Within the atmosphere and ethos of a Catholic school, we in Scoil Naomh Treasa aim to ensure that:

- Each child develops academically, personally and socially to the best of their ability.
- They develop an enthusiasm for life-long learning and a thirst for knowledge.
- Each child acquires an appreciation of their religion and a respect for other religions, other people and the world in which they live.

Aims of the Code of Discipline

- To allow the school to function in an orderly and harmonious way.
- To enhance the learning environment where children can make progress in all aspects of their development.
- To create an atmosphere of respect, tolerance and consideration for others.
- To promote positive behaviour and self-discipline recognising the differences between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
- To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the school community.
- To assist parents and pupils in understanding the systems and procedures that form part of the Code of Behaviour and to seek their co-operation in the application of these procedures.
- To ensure that the system rules, rewards, and sanctions are implemented in a fair and consistent manner.

Behaviour in Class

Pupils are expected to:

- Show courtesy and respect for others in order to ensure a safe, happy and secure working environment.
- Co-operate fully with instructions given by the teacher.
- Complete, to the best of their ability, oral and/or written work assigned to them in school and/or for homework.
- Leave and return to classrooms in an orderly way.
- Bring all required books, copies and materials to school and home each day.

- Keep their own workspace, and the classroom, neat and tidy.
- Remain seated and quiet in the event of the teacher having to leave the classroom.
- Treat the property of the school and other pupils with respect.
- Wear the correct uniform each day. (See Uniform Policy)
- Bring the correct lunch to school each day. (See Healthy Lunch Policy)

Behaviour in Yard and School Environment

- Pupils must accept the authority of all staff members.
- For reasons of safety and to minimise accidents, pupils will move about the school in an orderly way.
- Boisterous behaviour, rough play and dangerous games are prohibited.
- Pupils must seek permission from supervising teachers, to re-enter the school building.
- Drinks, games, gadgets and mobile phones are not allowed in the yard.
- Pupils must keep playgrounds litter free.
- When the bell rings at the end of breaks, children must walk in an orderly way to their lines.
- A child with any injury must be reported to the teacher on yard supervision. This teacher must ensure that this injury has been attended to. When necessary, parents may be asked to bring their child home, or the child may be brought to a doctor or hospital.
- At break times on wet days, pupils must remain seated in their classrooms and may not leave their seats without permission.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

In Scoil Naomh Treasa great emphasis is placed on setting high expectations and affirming good behaviour.

Teachers may also adopt some of the strategies below:

- Each class has a reward system in place whereby teachers promote positive behaviour and a good work ethic in the school environment.
- Each teacher may award a 'Star of the Week' based on class effort.
- Each teacher may use a behaviour record chart where an individual child or a group effort is awarded.
- Class treats are at the discretion of the teacher.
- Small prizes or stars may be presented in class.
- A night free of homework or homework passes.
- Extra school privileges or responsibilities.
- A note of praise, sticker, comment or a stamp on the pupil's work.
- Pupils who have made an exceptional effort may have their work displayed and/or shown to other teachers or to the Principal.
- End of year certificates.

Procedure to Deal with Misbehaviour

It is important the children know in advance what the sanctions are and that it is the behaviour and not the child that is being reprimanded. Sanctions are necessary to register disapproval of unacceptable behaviour.

The following sanctions may be used:

Stage 1:

- Non-verbal reprimand/warning.
- Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve.

Stage 2:

- On the third reprimand the child should be separated from peers using a 'time out' zone. The time period will depend on class level and the nature of the misdemeanour. Extra work may be prescribed at this stage.

**** In the case of more serious misbehaviours (see p.4) stages 1 and 2 may be skipped.***

Stage 3:

- Loss of privileges e.g. Golden Time, Activities, Yard Time, Curricular Areas under certain circumstances.
- The child may be removed from their classroom for a short period of time, and supervised by a neighbouring teacher, during which time written work may be given.

Stage 4:

- Oral or written communication with Parents should be made at this stage if the child's misbehaviour continues.

Stage 5:

- Referral to the Principal.

Stage 6:

- The Principal communicates with the child's Parents.

Stage 7:

- For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, suspension will be seriously considered by the Board of Management.

Examples of Misbehaviour

The following are examples of the types of misbehaviours which children may be reprimanded for:

- Ignoring teachers' instructions
- Inappropriate use of the Internet
- Distracting other students or constant talking
- Not carrying out or completing assigned work in school or at home without good reason
- Displaying a bad attitude in school
- Use of bad language
- Being dishonest or lying
- Unruliness on the school premises
- Vandalism or theft of other pupils' or school property
- Use of a mobile phone
- Assault, verbal abuse or intimidation of another child or member of staff
- Bullying or cyber-bullying
- Engaging in dangerous games, rough play or boisterous behaviour e.g. fighting, kicking, spitting, biting etc.
- Leaving the school grounds without permission
- Persistent infringement of any school rule

It is important to note that the above misbehaviours, if continued over time, can develop into serious misbehaviour.

Examples of Serious Misbehaviour

- Cyber-bullying
- Serious vandalism
- Bullying or intimidation
- Violation of the school's IAP (Internet Acceptable Use Policy)

N.B. Teachers should keep a written record of all serious incidents.

This Code of Behaviour and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year.

Signed: Fr John Conlon

Signed: Bernadette Mc Guinness

Chairperson Board of Management
Date:

Principal
Date:

Date of next review: January 2021

Appendix 1: Procedures for dealing with misbehaviour.

1. The child is made aware that his/her behaviour is unacceptable.
2. The child receives a verbal reprimand from his/her teacher and is advised on how to improve.
3. The child may be temporarily separated from peers, friends and others (e.g. class group).
4. For misbehaviour in the yard, the child may be sent inside and asked to sit outside the staffroom during breaktime.
5. For a more serious misbehaviour they may be asked to complete a written behaviour reflection sheet which their parents may be asked to sign.
6. For misbehaviour that occurs at lunchtime or at any other time when another teacher is in charge, that teacher may impose a sanction and inform the child's class teacher of same.
7. Additional homework or a written assignment re his/her inappropriate behaviour may be prescribed to the child.
8. A note detailing the misbehaviour may be sent home to be signed by his/her parent or guardian.
9. The incident is communicated to the principal and the child is referred to the principal if necessary.
10. If a child continues to misbehave in class, his/her parents or guardians will be asked to meet with the class teacher.
11. If the misbehaviour continues, the child's parents/guardians will be asked to meet with the principal. Ongoing meetings may be necessary if the problem persists.
12. For serious misbehaviour, after consultation with the child's parents/guardians, the child may be deprived of privileges.
13. In instances of repeated serious misbehaviour, the parents/guardians will be asked to meet with the chairperson of the Board of Management, the principal and the class teacher, and will be asked to give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner going forward.
14. If this cannot be agreed, or if the serious misbehaviour continues, the Board of Management may decide to suspend the child for a temporary period up to a maximum of three school days.
15. A special decision by the Board of Management may be necessary to authorise a further period of suspension, up to a maximum of ten school days. In exceptional circumstances the Board of Management may authorise a further period of suspension.
16. Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case.
17. In the case of serious misbehaviour, the Board of Management, having informed the child's parents/guardians may authorise the chairperson or the principal to sanction immediate suspension.
18. Recompense is expected to be made by parents/guardians for the damage to, loss or theft of property.

N.B. Teachers shall keep a written record of all instances of serious misbehaviour as well as a record of improvements in the behaviour of the disruptive pupils.

A whole class will not be punished because of one child's or small group's misbehaviour, save in exceptional circumstances.