

**Policy : Behaviour Policy**

**School Details:**

<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil</b>
<b>Address:</b>	Dúncitil, Gleann Maghair Co. Chorcaí
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<b>Category:</b>	Multidenominational Gaelscoil
	23 teachers
<b>Uimhreacha ar rolla:</b>	462

**Introductory Statement**

Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil's "Behaviour Policy" was initially formulated in 2008 involving consultations among staff, parents and Board of Management members. The policy was formally ratified by the BOM. The Behaviour Policy was reviewed, updated and formally approved by the Board of Management in October 2016.

**Rationale**

The Board of Management of Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil hereby sets out the Behaviour Policy in accordance the following publication "Developing a code of Behaviour , Guidelines for Schools foilsithe ag an NEWB (Túsla) i mBealtaine 2008.

The Chairperson of the Board of Management and the Principal will be happy to clarify any further matters arising from the policy.

**Ethos**

**Gaelscoil - a school in which all subjects are taught through the medium of Irish in an attractive encouraging environment. Irish is the language of the school community, between children, teachers and management.**

- **Multi-denominational** i.e. all children having equal rights of access to the school, and children of all social, cultural and religious

## **Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil, Dúncitil, Gleann Maghair, Co. Chorcaí**

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*backgrounds being equally respected.*

- **Co-educational** and committed to encouraging all children to explore their full range of abilities and opportunities
- **Child centred** in their approach to education
- **Democratically run** with active participation by parents in the daily life of the school whilst positively affirming the professional role of the teachers

<b>Aims.</b>
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### **Aims**

- This policy is intended to clarify the standard of behaviour we expect in the school and to help the school community gain an understanding of the school systems and procedures which are at the heart of the behavioural policy.
- We understand that there is an important relationship between the characteristic spirit of the school and the behavioural policy and that a positive outlook is visible daily from the Principal, parents/guardians and the students.
- We expect that good examples of behaviour will be fostered daily and that positive behaviour will be acknowledged and praised when shown.
- We all should, especially teachers, make sure that children are highly praised when deemed necessary.
- Emphasis will always be placed on the development of the child within their time spent in the school. A high standard of behaviour will be expected from pupils so that students, staff and families will be able to enjoy and benefit from their time in school.
- Positive communication with every member of the school community will be fostered.
- Respect shown to others at all times – Create an atmosphere where everyone shows respect and understanding to each other and everyone's dignity is acknowledged.
- To ensure the health and safety of the whole school community.
- To help parents and students understand the school's systems and the steps that are in place as part of the behavioural policy and to seek their co-operation in the implementation of the behaviour policy.

## **Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil, Dúncitil, Gleann Maghair, Co. Chorcaí**

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- To ensure that the rules, rewards and sanctions are fairly and consistently implemented throughout the school.

### **Ról agus Dualgaisí**

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **The school's approach to the development of positive behaviour:**

The school believes that it is important to adopt a whole school approach to the development of positive behaviour. Each school party has a specific role to fulfill i.e. the Board of Management, the Principal, school staff, students, parents and guardians of pupils of Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil.

#### **The Board of Management:**

The Board of Management is expected:

- to provide a safe, comfortable school.
- to support the behaviour policy,
- to support teachers in the implementation of the behaviour policy.

#### **The Principal:**

The principal is expected to:

- create a positive atmosphere in the school
- to ensure that the behaviour policy is implemented by all relevant school parties in a continual and fair manner.

#### **Teachers of the school**

Teachers must:

- Create a safe environment, a place where children can learn and give praise where necessary
- Develop good relationships between all school parties that displays respect and dignity
- To develop a positive atmosphere in class and praise good behaviour
- To be courteous, well mannered and fair
- Deal with bad behaviour in a fair manner
- Keep a record of any misbehaviour and good behaviour
- To give support to their colleagues
- Communicate with parents when needed

#### **Students**

The children should:

- Listen to the teachers and accept advice that is given to them

## **Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil, Dúncitil, Gleann Maghair, Co. Chorcaí**

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- Demonstrate self-respect and respect for others
- To be nice to others and to be willing to help them
- To be courteous and well mannered
- To solve problems and conflict in a dignified way
- Ensure that everybody is included in all activities and games
- Make sure that the right books and equipment are brought into school
- Follow the rules of the school and the rules in the class
- Make sure that all school work is done to the best of their ability
- Show respect for the building, the school equipment, and any items belonging to other students.

### **Parents**

Parents should:

- Ensure that their child attends school regularly and in time and arrive on time
- Ensure that parents understand and support the behaviour policy when registering their children and that they sign the School Form "Foirm Sonraí" and accepting the school policies and the school ethos. Appendix B (Foirm Sonraí attached)
- Give support to their children with school work
- Give encouragement and support to their children during the child's homework
- Ensure that the children have school books and all necessary equipment
- Sign Homework Journal daily to ensure they are aware of work being done.
- Support the school in the implementation of the Behaviour Policy.
- Communicate with class teacher if they have a concern regarding their child especially if it is an issue which could impact on the child's behaviour in the class.

### **Good Behaviour**

- Display good manners at all times. Greetings such as: A Mhúinteoir Fhionnuala/Mhalacháí; Dia dhuit/ go raibh maith agat/ gabh mo leithscéal etc.

## **Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil, Dúncitil, Gleann Maghair, Co. Chorcaí**

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- Irish should be spoken at all times in school, on school tours and at external school events. Support is expected from parents/guardians in this respect.
- That the school/playground/hygiene rules and the agreed class rules are adhered to.
- The manner in which the children listen to the teachers and each other not interrupting other people if a conversation is taking place, standing attentively
- Homework should be done neatly and thoroughly. Homework should be taken down carefully, checked and signed every night by a parent/guardian. If there is a problem, a note can be sent in in the Dialann Scoláire explaining the situation.
- Proper posture when sitting on a chair(not to swing on the chair)
- That the children are attentive when school announcements are being made.
  - Toys, collections of playing cards (Match Attax, etc) or other items that could interfere with class work should be left at home.
  - The classroom and the corridor should be kept clean and neat at all times – books, baskets, crayons, coats etc. Care should be given to all painted walls, doors and furniture – no marks should be left through carelessness.
  - Respect should be shown for other people's dignity and for their property.
  - We ask that parents/guardians supervise their children outside school hours in the vicinity of the school, as the school cannot be responsible for them at these times. Be aware that classes are in progress until 2.30 and please ensure that they aren't interrupted in any way from noise outside between 1.30pm and 2.30pm.
  - It's expected that children will always be on time for school and prepared for their school day.

### **Golden Rules:**

- Irish – Irish is the spoken language in the school with the exception of English class It is expected that children will speak in Irish at all times agus during, before and after School activities. We strongly believe that parents can use a few Irish words with their children and teachers as a means of showing respect for the language. Teachers should set a good example by communicating in Irish and

encouraging the children to achieve a high standard of spoken Irish.

- Be polite and respectful at all times
- Be attentive at all times
- Always walk when in the school building. Stand quietly in the line, and remain seated on wet days at break times.
- Always raise your hand to obtain permission to speak (except when the teacher permits general conversation for the purpose of group work).
- Show respect for school furniture and equipment at all times.
- Abide by the playground rules or the bathroom rules.
- Follow the safety directions and rules on school trips and external school activities.
- Any form of Bullying behaviour is not tolerated, including “cyber bullying”.
- To wear the school uniform with pride and respect.

### **These are our strategies for encouraging good behaviour.**

Students are more likely to behave well when:

- they can see that the code works in a fair way
- there are standards that set high expectations for student behaviour
- the standards are clear, consistent and widely understood
- parents support the school by encouraging good learning behaviour
- there are good relationships between teachers, parents and students and a happy school atmosphere
- adults model the behaviour that is expected from students.
- they are given responsibility in the school and are involved in the development of the code of behaviour
- they understand why the code is important and their part in making it work
- positive everyday interactions between teachers and students
- clear boundaries and rules for students
- helping students themselves to recognise and affirm good learning behaviour
- recognising and giving positive feedback about behaviour

## **Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil, Dúncitil, Gleann Maghair, Co. Chorcaí**

- involving students in the preparation of the school and classroom rules
- To be aware of disadvantage and differences
- To give prizes, responsibilities or priveleges
- To give parents/guardians a positive report

### **Recognition of good behaviour**

Every effort is made to reward and recognise good behaviour and is done in the following ways:

- Children are encouraged and praised when golden rules of the school are followed by them
- Significant merits are awarded under the discretion of the teacher when deserved
- Children are praised publically in the classroom, the hall, or principal's office and in other classrooms as appropriate at the discretion of the teacher.

### **Strategies to deal with minor misbehaviour**

Every effort will be made to inspire the children to resolve the issue themselves in the case of minor misbehaviour. It is the policy of our school to resolve minor problems at the lowest level. In the case of mild misbehaviour it is the class teacher who is responsible for implementation of this policy.

This being the case, the parent should first approach the class teacher in the first instance to discuss any minor incident.

In addition, the children approach the class teacher when they are unable to come to a resolution themselves. The teachers will then give them support to resolve the issue. The majority of these problems are resolved at this level without the involvement of parents, the principal or any other teacher in the school.

Parents are kept informed as appropriate of the actions taken to resolve the behavioural problems and it is at the discretion of the class teacher whether or not to inform the parents of the particular issue.

The principal is entitled to provide unofficial assistance to find the resolution for a minor behaviour probably as appropriate.

### **Strategies to deal with misbehaviour and serious misbehaviour.**

**The following are the strategies use to express dissatisfaction with misbehaviour depending on how serious the issue may be. Although, they are in the general order of seriousness, the steps do not have to be followed in order.**

- The teacher will speak to the child/children. This will be done privately or in front of the class as appropriate
- Privileges will be revoked e.g. jobs will not be given in class or the child sent on errands around the school.
- To take them out of a lesson or a peer group. It is inappropriate however to deny a child access to a particular curricular area on a regular basis.
- The child will be given extra homework.
- The teacher will speak with the parent on an informal basis at first.
- The parents will be informed of behavioural issues via the homework diary.
- The principal and the vice principal will talk to the child.
- They will be separated from their peer group during yard time.
- The teacher will speak privately with the child and the parents.
- The child will be separated from the rest of the class and on occasion put into a different class,
- In the case of vandalism the parents will be obliged to pay for any damages that may arise.
- A formal report will be sent to the Board of management
- Suspension.
- Expulsion.

### **Strategies to deal with serious behaviour issues.**

1. The parents will be contacted immediately when a very serious issue occurs. (Even if none of the previous steps have been followed, if the behaviour is threatening or dangerous, a decision will be made immediately.)
2. Normally the teacher will contact the parent first but in serious circumstances the principal will contact the parents.
3. When parents are invited to the school, they are spoken to in a professional manner and the incident that occurred is clearly explained.
4. A record of the meeting will be kept.

### **Suspension Procedures**

The Board of Management has the authority to suspend a pupil. The Principal / Vice Principal (if the Principal is absent) has the authority in writing from the Board of Management to suspend a student for one day. The Chairperson of The Board of Management will have to be informed if this were to happen and the Board will have to be notified at the next Board meeting.

Pupils may be suspended as a result of inappropriate behaviour.

Pupils may also be suspended as a result of one serious act of misbehaviour.

Immediate Suspension may occur in exceptional circumstances. The Principal has the authority to judge whether immediate suspension is appropriate and necessary, in the case the continuous presence of the pupil at that time may cause danger to the safety of other students or staff or any other person in the school.

- The pupil and their parents must be informed of the complaint.

In the case of suspension in Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil, the procedures laid out in Education Act (2000) will be followed- see (Developing a Behaviour Policy: Guidelines for NEWB schools, 2008).

### **Expulsion**

The Board of Management of Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil and they alone have the authority to expel a pupil from the school.

Expulsion is an extreme measure and one that will be taken by the Board of Management in very serious cases. Additional significant

## **Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil, Dúncitil, Gleann Maghair, Co. Chorcaí**

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measures will have already been taken to tackle this misbehaviour in order to prevent the pupil from being expelled.

- A meeting will have been held with parents and the pupil and every effort will have been made to modify the misbehaviour
- to ensure that the pupil understands the consequences of his or her behaviour should it continue
- to ensure that all other options have been exhausted
- assistance will have been sought from the relevant support agencies such as National Educational Psychological Service, Health Service Executive, Child Protection Services, National Counsel for Special Education). We reserve the right to expel pupils in exceptional circumstances such as:
  - when the actions of the pupil have a long term damaging effect on the education of the other pupils
  - When there is a serious threat to the safety of other pupils and/or other people while said pupil is in the school
- When the pupil is responsible for serious damage to property the measures for expulsion are similar to the steps taken for suspension. Taking into account the seriousness of the punishment and the ongoing misbehaviour the biggest reason for expulsion is that the school authorities have exhausted all possible solutions and they are of the opinion that the behaviour of the child cannot be improved.

### **Procedure for Dealing with expulsion:**

In the case of a student expulsion, Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil will follow the procedures that are set out in the Education Act 2000, to develop the Behaviour Policy, Guidelines for Schools.

In the event a child's behaviour leads to expulsion the following steps must be followed:

1. Detailed examination under the direction of the principal.
2. Recommendation from the principal to the Board of Management.
3. On suggestion of the Principal the BoM will organise a hearing.
4. The Board of Management observes and will make a decision after the hearing.

## **Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil, Dúncitil, Gleann Maghair, Co. Chorcaí**

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5. To arrange a consultation by the Education Officer
6. The decision to expel the student must be witnessed.

It is accepted that the BoM is the decision maker with regard expulsions.

The BoM decides which steps and procedures will be implemented. They decide when a meeting is needed and which steps can be implemented in each, in conjunction with appropriate notice given to parents and appropriate time given for the hearing.

In all expulsion cases in Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil, the procedures laid out in Education Act (2000) will be followed- see (Developing a Behaviour Policy: Guidelines for NEWB schools, 2008).

### **Appeals**

Parents or children over the age of 18 can appeal an expulsion to the Secretary of The Department of Education and Skills (Under the Education Act 1998, Paragraph 29). An appeal can be made by TUSLA on behalf of the student.

### **The Appeal Process**

The process adheres to Paragraph 29 of the Education Act 1998 and provides an intervention. I.e. hidirghabháil a sholáthar ag idirghabhalaí ceaptha ag an gCoiste Achomhairc (An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna).

Refer to the guidelines of the Department of Education and Skills for further information and essential documentation on the Appeals Process.

### **Other policies will will have an impact on the Code of Behaviour :**

Some of the policies which impact on Behaviour Policy ie. SPHE Plan; Anti-Bullying Policy, Health and Safety Statement; Child Protection Policy; Learning Support/Resource Plan.

## **Ratification and Communication**

## **Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil, Dúncitil, Gleann Maghair, Co. Chorcaí**

This policy was put together by parents, staff, teachers and Board of Management of Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Cathaoirleach/Chairperson

Co-signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Review**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Cathaoirleach/Chairperson

Co-signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Link :

[http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/guidelines\\_school\\_codes\\_eng.pdf](http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/guidelines_school_codes_eng.pdf)