

## **Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil**

Club Rugbaí na Seanchríostaithe,  
Ráth Chuanaigh,  
Gleann Maghair  
Co. Chorcaí

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Uimhir Rolla : 20239

### **Discipline Policy - Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil**

#### **Introductory Statement**

The staff put this policy together in May 2008.

#### **Rationale**

To create an enjoyable environment for learning

- It is a requirement under DES Circular 20/90 on School Discipline and the Education Welfare Act 2000.

#### **Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school**

Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil is a multid denominational Gaelscoil whose ethos is

- 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 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

## **Aims**

Through this policy the school hopes to

- Allow the school to function in an orderly and harmonious way.
- Enhance the learning environment where children can make progress in all aspects of their development
- Create an atmosphere of respect, tolerance and consideration for others
- Promote positive behaviour and self-discipline recognising the differences between children and the need to accommodate these differences
- Ensure the safety and well being of all members of the school community
- 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.
- Ensure that the system of rules, rewards, and sanctions are implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
- Ensure an educational environment is provided in line with our vision statement

## **School Rules**

### General

In school/School Community

- Children will be in school on time- 8.50.
- It is the responsibility of each parent to drive carefully to and from the school
- It is the responsibility of each parent to accompany their child/children onto school property (inside school gate)
- Everyone is expected to walk when inside school premises
- Due consideration will be given to personal cleanliness
- Each child will wear school uniform/tracksuit to school
- Emphasis is placed on bringing healthy, sensible lunch each day
- Parental cooperation is expected to ensure that children listen, work hard, complete homework tasks
- It is expected that every member of the school community will be kind and respectful to one another and that respect will be shown to teachers and pupils alike.
- Children are expected to behave well in class so that fellow pupils can learn effectively
- All dealings with the school will be conducted in an honest and truthful manner
- Parents must ensure that child's name is written clearly on all items belonging to their child
- Personal Toys or other resources/equipment are not permitted

- Emphasis is placed on recycling and respect for environment and cooperation appreciated.

In the classroom:

Positive strategies will be used in the classroom to effectively manage pupil behaviour

- Each classroom will be kept clean and rubbish free each time the room is vacated
- Students are responsible for their own books, bag and clothes
- Emergency exits will be kept clear and chairs will be pushed under tables, school bags kept tidy etc.
- Appropriate behaviour is expected when using the toilet facilities
- Children will put their hand up to gain teachers attention and to ask or answer questions
- Feet will be kept on the ground and children will not sway on chairs
- Homework is given regularly from Monday to Thursday. It is recommended that parents take an active interest in their child's homework. The homework diary should be signed from Rang 1 - Rang 6 to ensure that homework tasks are completed and enable communication between home and school.

In the yard.

- Students must stay within the school boundaries and are not permitted to leave the school premises without the permission of the teacher in charge
- A teacher will be on supervision duty in the yard at break times along with Special needs assistants who will be looking after specific children in the yard.
- Children are not permitted to play on playing pitches except during the fine weather. A boundary will be created using cones.

- Activities will be organised in order to reduce incidences of poor behaviour
- If a child is sick, they are permitted to stay in at lunch times and sit outside staff room door (if they feel sick while in school/during school)
- Any child who comes to school with a note from a parent can also sit outside staffroom door at break times
- A red book is used to keep an account of incidents/ accidents that occur and this book is kept in the office.
- Should an accident occur during break time where a child is hurt/injured, class teacher will be called and it is the responsibility of the class teacher to take care of the child in question
- Each class walks to and from the yard/hall. The teachers in the classrooms upstairs will walk with their class to the bottom of the stairs. Teacher will walk at the beginning of line. Children will walk one behind the other, with the right hand on railing.
- In wet weather, all children will go to the hall
- If a child needs to use the toilet facilities during break time, the downstairs toilets will be used
- These rules have been drawn up on Safety grounds but every effort will be made to ensure that children have fun in the yard and that they will have an opportunity to learn from one another, shout together, fight together and play together.

### **Strategies**

Every effort will be made to implement this policy in a positive way, using praise and encouragement

- a quiet word or gesture to show approval
- a comment in a pupil's exercise book
- ✓ A visit to another member of Staff or to the principal for commendation
- ✓ A word of praise in front of a group or class
- ✓ A system of merit marks/ star chart
- ✓ Delegating some special responsibility or privilege
- ✓ A mention to a parent, written or verbal communication
- ✓ Student of the Week (each class) at assembly
- All students will have access to all areas of the curriculum.

Strategies for dealing with unacceptable behaviour-

The nature of the behaviour will determine the strategy

Every effort will be made to use positive strategies as far as possible.

- ☆ reasoning with pupils
- ☆ Verbal reprimand (advice given in order to improve behaviour)
- ☆ Communication with parents
- ☆ Temporary separation from peers
- ☆ Loss of privileges
- ☆ Detention during a break
- ☆ Prescribing additional work
- ☆ Referral to the Principal
- ☆ Note to parents/Communication
- ☆ Meet the parents
- ☆ In-house suspension
- ☆ Suspension (temporary)
- ☆ Expulsion (in accordance with the Education Welfare Act)

## **Procedures**

The degree of misdemeanours i.e. minor, serious or gross, will be judged by the teachers and/or Principal based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity/ frequency of such misdemeanours.

Examples of minor misdemeanours

- interrupting classwork
- running in the school building/
- messing in the class line/
- leaving seat in class without permission/
- putting unfinished food/drink in the bin/ leaving litter around the school/
- not wearing correct uniform/
- being discourteous/ unmannerly/
- not completing homework without good reason/
- not having homework signed by a parent
- putting other children or themselves in danger during break times

Examples of procedures for dealing with minor misdemeanours

Verbal reprimand/reasoning with student

Keeping record of minor yard misdemeanour in the Yard Book (Red Book)

Examples of procedures for dealing with regularly occurring minor misdemeanours

### Step 1

1. Note in their diary to be signed by a parent
2. Temporary separation from fellow classmates
3. Child is sent to another classroom or misses out on a class activity
4. Warning to pupils whose name appears in yard the book more than three times
5. Note to parents concerning further misbehaviour in the yard ( i.e behaviour that puts self/others in danger)

### Phase 2

1. Child sent to Principal
2. Class teacher meets one/both parents
3. Principal meets one/ both parents concerning yard behaviour

### Examples of gross misdemeanours;

- Constantly disruptive in class
- telling lies
- stealing
- damaging other pupil's property
- bullying
- back answering a teacher
- frequenting school premises after school hours without appropriate permission/  
leaving school premises during school hours without appropriate permission
- using unacceptable language
- bringing weapons to school
- deliberately injuring another pupil

### Examples of Procedures for dealing with serious misdemeanours

1. Send child to Principal
2. Principal sends note in dialann to be signed by parent
3. Principal meets with one/ both parents.
4. Chairperson of BoM informed and parents requested to meet with Chairperson and Principal

### Examples of gross misdemeanours

Setting fire to school property/ deliberately leaving taps fire hose turned on, aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher/ pupil/ supplying or using illegal substances

1. Examples of Procedures for dealing with gross misdemeanours. Principal/ Chairperson to sanction immediate suspension pending discussion with parents/ parents called in

2. Expulsion will be considered in an extreme case in accordance with the Education welfare Act and Rule 130 (6) i.e. “ No pupil can be struck off the rolls for breaches of discipline without prior consent of the patron and until alternative arrangements are made for enrolment of the pupil at another suitable school in the locality”. \*

It should be noted that these lists consist of samples only. It is not meant to be a totally comprehensive list of misdemeanours and procedural steps.

It is at the discretion of the BoM to decide the level of seriousness of a misdemeanour and what is the appropriate action to be taken.

\*Under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998, parents are entitled to appeal to the Secretary General of the Dept. of Education and Science against some decisions of the BoM, including (1) permanent exclusion from a school and (2) suspension for a period which would bring the cumulative period of suspension to 20 school days or longer in any one school year (See Circular 22/02).

### **Success Criteria**

- Positive feedback from teachers, from parents and from pupils
- Observation of behaviour in classrooms, corridors, yard

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Principal, teachers and parents are responsible for coordinating this policy. The staff will implement it.

Each teacher will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring their own class.

The yard supervisors are responsible for the children in the yard/ around the school on a wet day.

Parents have the responsibility of supporting the school in cases of their children's behaviour/ misbehaviour.

The Principal has responsibility for ensuring the Code is being implemented effectively in the school.

**Positive Note**

Although of necessity, this policy deals more with the negative side of Discipline, within the school the emphasis is entirely on the positive side. Any opportunity that a teacher, Principal, member of staff or visitor gets, they will encourage and stimulate the children through praise and affirmation.

**Implementation Date**

From :

Timetable for review

3 years from implementation date or earlier if necessary

**Ratification and Communication**

Policy available on line (ar líne)

Síniithe: \_\_\_\_\_ Dáta \_\_\_\_\_

Éanna Ó Brádaigh  
Cathaoirleach