

Scoil Mhuire an Chroí gan Smál

Code of Behaviour

In devising this code, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstance 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 the teachers.

The school place 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 between staff, pupils and parents. A copy of this code will be made available to all parents and parents who have children enrolled in the school will be required to sign a form stating that they have read the code and agree to its terms.

The rules are being kept to a minimum and are positively stated in terms of what pupils should do. All rules of conduct are based on five key premises, which will be called the Leenane NS 'High Five' these are:

Being Respectful: using nice manners, being kind and caring, working quietly, using appropriate language, following teacher directions, being helpful, listening, waiting your turn to speak.....

Being Responsible: taking care of property, doing homework, arriving on time, having the things you need, following class and school rules, making appropriate judgements about what should be at school, eating a healthy and nutritious lunch, putting litter in the bin.....

Being Safe: acting in a considerate, safe manner, playing safely, being careful not to be rough or harm others in any way.....

Being Honest: telling the truth even when it's tough, 'owing up' when you're in the wrong. Telling when you see someone being hurt deliberately.....

Being the Best you can be: Having a positive attitude, always trying to do your best – even when it's not your favourite thing to do.

This code is to be adhered to by all members of the school community, Teachers, Pupils, Parents, Management and Ancillary staff.

The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the Principal. Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within his/her classroom, while sharing a common

responsibility for good order within the school premises. A pupil will be referred to the Principal for serious breaches of discipline and for repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour.

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
- e) Detention during a break
- f) Prescribing additional work
- g) Referral to Principal
- h) Communication with parents
- i) Suspension (temporary)

Teaches will keep a written record of all instance 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 or another pupil will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour, depending on circumstances.

Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents will be requested in writing to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson and the principal. If the parents don not give an undertaking that the pupil will be have in an acceptable manner in the future, the pupil may have to be suspended for temporary period. Suspension will be in accordance with the terms of Rule 130(50 of the Rules of National Schools.

In the case of gross misbehaviour, the Board shall authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension, pending a discussion on the matter with parents.

Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with Rule 130(6). Every effort will be made to have an emotionally disturbed child referred for psychological assessment without delay. Help will be sought, also, from support service within the wider community, e.g. Community Care services provided by the HSE.

In formulating this code, the Board of Management considered a submission relating to the possible content of a code received from and discussed with the body representing the parents of the pupils attending the school.

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

The school day at Leenane NS starts at 9.20am and ends at 3pm. As a courtesy to parents to facilitate drop off and collection of children, doors will open at 9.10am. Supervision will not be provided before 9.10am or after 3pm.

All children are encouraged to bring a healthy lunch so as to avoid hunger and aid their capacity to concentrate and perform to their best potential.

Children are encouraged to interact and play creatively during break-times. In order to avoid the potential for conflict and undue financial pressure on parents, children are expected to leave personal toys at home.

In the belief that the most effective schools tend to be those with the best relationship with parents, every effort will be made by the Principal and staff to ensure that parents are kept well informed, that the school provides a welcoming atmosphere towards parents and that parents are not only told when their children are in trouble but when they have behaved particularly well.

This code will be reviewed every 2 years or as the need arises

The Code of Behaviour was formally ratified by the Board of Management (BOM) of Leenane National School on 1st March 2007.

This code was reviewed by the BOM of Leenane NS on ____ / ____ / ____

Stephen Coyne

Chairperson _____

Date ____ / ____ / ____

This code will be reviewed in June 2020