



Cummer, Corofin, Tuam, Co. Galway

Code of Behaviour

This Code of Behaviour is being 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). Parents, staff and members of the school community are being asked to read this Code and give feedback and suggestions to the office. The Code of Behaviour needs to be read in association with the school "Anti-bullying", Code of Discipline policies, and Child Safeguarding Statement. When parents enrol their child in St Colman's NS 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 St Colman's NS is that:

"Each individual through positive learning experiences will be stimulated to reach his/her full potential, face life confidently, find fulfilment and be respectful in an ever 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 of the Circle Time programme are on display throughout the school. These rules synopsis for the children what is expected of them, in a language they understand. Children from Junior Infants – 6th classes will be reminded of these rules and will discuss them regularly.

Be Gentle	Don't hurt anyone
Be kind and helpful	Don't hurt people's feelings
Be honest	Don't cover up the truth
Work hard	Don't waste time
Look after property you.	Don't waste or damage things or take things that don't belong to you.
Listen to people	Don't interrupt

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;

to be familiar with and follow the school's Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy

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;

be familiar with the teachers' Code of Professional Conduct

communicate with parents and staff when necessary, always with courtesy and respect;

provide reports on matters of concern.

to be familiar with and follow the school's policies on "Grievance" and if he/she has any complaint against staff, parents or outside personnel.

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, or to notify the office by phone

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 policy on "Healthy Eating".

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;

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.

to follow the school's "Complaints Procedure" if they have a complaint about a staff member.

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;

(For more information please refer to the school's "Exit and Entry routines").

When the bell rings after play-time the children stop playing and walk to their class lines. 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 cloakrooms 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/ tracksuit

not to bring chewing gum, glass bottles, other solvents, matches, cigarettes, alcohol or drugs to school either on the premises or to a school related activity;

minimal jewelry

not to wear make-up;

not to cycle in school grounds unless taking part in safety training organised by the school;

to hand up their mobile phone, if they bring it to school, switched off, to the class teacher or principal as soon as school starts and to remember to get their mobile phone from the teacher/principal before school finishes. If a child is found with a mobile phone it will be confiscated. In line with the Policy on Mobile Phones and Devices, pupils are not allowed mobile phones at school.

to keep their hair neat and in its natural colour; For hygiene purposes hair should be tied back.

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. Waste paper and cardboard are collected for recycling. All other empty carton drink containers and wrapping papers are considered household waste and are taken home.

not to climb on the school walls or railings.

On wet days children are expected:

to do activities in class based on the class teacher's instructions or supervising teacher's instructions; Teachers are on supervision duty at morning and lunch time-breaks with the assistance of the team of Special Needs assistants. Sixth class help with the supervision, under the direction of the supervising teachers

to stay in their classrooms and not run around the room;

to never use sharp implements;

When swimming children are expected:

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 shampoo, hairsprays, gels, spray deodorants to the pool

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 before departure time if a child is sick or unable to attend.

to keep the school rules as listed above;

not to bring mobile phones or electronic devices on school tours; 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;

to return the parental/guardian permission slips allowing the child to go on tour;

In our school we promote behaviour that is conducive to teaching and learning. We aim to catch students being good and have a diverse range of strategies to promote positive behaviour.

This policy will be reviewed periodically in consultation with students, parents, staff and the Board of Management.

