



CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Our Code of Behaviour encompasses the day-to-day procedures and protocols, specified in our School Journal and may be developed from time to time. This policy was developed in line with the schools Ethos and guided by the schools Mission Statement. The Code of Behaviour covers the following: • Our students at school, representing the school or when wearing the school uniform. • Travelling to and from school. • Activities associated with the school. • Outside of school time where the conduct of a pupil affects the welfare of a member/members of the school community or brings the school into disrepute.

RATIONALE

This Code of Behaviour sets out to enable the Principal to carry out their responsibility to maintain order and good discipline in the school. It also aims to ensure that the school's high expectations regarding the behaviour of all our pupils are widely known and understood and to encourage and reinforce good behaviour; self-respect and respect for others, respect for property and the school environment. The code of behaviour also sets out to promote a school environment that is conducive to excellent teaching and learning in which, in so far as is possible, every pupil can benefit from and make a full contribution to the life of the school.

In order to fulfil the above and in acknowledgement of our collective responsibility, this Code of Behaviour has been formulated to replace and / or update all preceding Code of Behaviour. It has been formulated in accordance with NEWB guidelines. The code of behaviour of Scoil Mhuire Strokestown is based on our desire to create and maintain a friendly, safe environment where each student has the freedom to learn and to develop relationships.

At Scoil Mhuire each student is

1. Expected to respect him/her self, staff, fellow students and school property.
2. Expected to attend school in full school uniform every day, be punctual for all classes and have the necessary books and equipment. A note is required for any absence dated and signed by parent/guardian on the day of return.
3. In the interest of health and safety the following are not allowed:
 - (a) Smoking
 - (b) Aerosol deodorant sprays
 - (c) Chewing Gum
 - (d) Wearing of jewellery with the exception of a watch and one pair of small earrings for girls
 - (e) Make up or facial jewellery
 - (f) Leaving class or school without permission
 - (g) Presence in areas out of bounds
4. The use of Drugs/Alcohol and any banned substance is absolutely forbidden in school and at all school related activities.
5. Hair colouring other than highlighting of your own natural colours and inappropriate hair styles and colours are not permitted.
6. Mobile phones should only be used with the teacher's permission. (refer to the Acceptable use policy)
7. Bullying in any form will not be tolerated. (Please refer to our Anti Bullying Policy)
8. Students use of motorised vehicles is not permitted during school hours.
9. This code is not exhaustive and the Principal may on occasion need to take a decision based on best practice for the good of other students and staff and the school. The parents/guardians and the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed in the event of such an occurrence.

Roles / Responsibilities of Teaching Staff and School Management

Teachers and management will endeavour to maintain a consistent and fair approach to supporting positive behaviour by:

- Fostering mutually respectful relationships between students, parents/guardians and all staff in Scoil Mhuire.
- Rewarding positive behaviour and learning achievements/effort and general progress.
- Following and adopting clearly defined procedures/sanctions in a restorative, fair and helpful manner.
- Implementing appropriate teaching strategies and mixed methodologies to enable all students to achieve their potential.
- Supporting students through an effective pastoral care system and through the 'Social, Personal and Health Education' programme.
- Offering support through guidance and psychological support services.

Roles and Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians and teachers are the significant adults in the lives of the young people at school. Parents/Guardians will encourage positive student behaviour by: Fostering mutually respectful relationships between students, parents/guardians and all staff on the school grounds. Supporting the school in its high expectations of positive behaviour and high standards of personal achievement and by encouraging and supporting their children's progress. Informing the school of concerns which may affect the child's progress. Providing feedback to the school in relation to policies.

Roles and Responsibilities of Students

Students are the centre of the school community. They are responsible for their own behaviour and engage in responsible and positive behaviour by:

- Respecting each other, the school staff and any visitors to the school.
- Creating a positive learning atmosphere in the classroom.
- Working to the best of their ability to achieve the best possible education.
- Acting in a safe manner and considering the safety of others
- Showing respect for other people's property and the school environment. Achieving Excellence
- Supporting the Student Council and all student committees and groups in their role as a voice for the students.
- Raising issues which concern you with the appropriate person. This code is not exhaustive and the Principal may on occasion need to take a decision based on best practice for the good of other students and staff and the school. The parents/guardians and the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed in the event of such an occurrence.

REWARDS

At Scoil Mhuire we operate a reward system, which may include the following:

- Verbal praise and encouragement
- Acknowledgement in school newsletter
- Display of students work/projects
- Open day displays
- Production of Video/DVD of special occasions/shows
- The President's Bronze award – Gaisce
- School Reference
- Class excursions
- Subject teacher rewards

SANCTIONS

Non-compliance with the Code of Behaviour will involve sanctions. It starts with less serious sanctions and ends with more serious ones, any of which may be imposed depending on the student's behaviour.

- Reasoning with the student by subject teacher/staff member and advice on how to improve
- Reprimand of student and apology required
- Prescribing additional work
- Community service (Picking up litter, removing graffiti/chewing gum)
- The class tutor, Principal or Deputy Principal may place a student on report card. This will be on a weekly basis depending on the offending behaviour and requires a comment from teachers. It is then shown to parents and the Deputy Principal/Principal for signature daily. On completion of report card the Principal and the Tutor will meet to discuss progress.
- Detention
- Withdrawal from a particular class for a period – the student will be adequately supervised elsewhere
- Loss of privileges such as membership of Prefects system, the right to go on trips, membership of school teams, attendance at evening activities run by the school
- If none of the above sanctions work, supervised suspension from classes in school or suspension is the only possible alternative
- Suspension – for serious breaches on school discipline or behaviour not mentioned above but which are contrary to the ethos of the school, Principal may intervene much sooner and take appropriate disciplinary action
- Expulsion – in the event that the behaviour of a student is considered to be serious, the Principal may refer the matter to the Board of Management, Parents/Guardians have the right to appeal the decision of the Board under Section 29 of the Education Act.

- In relation to bullying, please refer to our anti-bullying policy. Instances of Bullying will be dealt with under our code of Behaviour
- Students should note that the records of misbehaviour are kept on file

Communication with parents in relation to sanctions:

- Initial communication will be a note written in the school journal or telephone call, or by letter depending on the circumstances.
- Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour the parents will be requested in writing, to meet the Principal.
- In the case of suspension of a student, the Parent/Guardian concerned may be invited to come to the school to discuss their daughter/son behaviour.
- The decision to exclude or impose a lesser sanction will be taken by the Board of Management after a case conference; this is in relation to an expulsion.

LOCAL & APPEALS PROCEDURE

Section 28 of the Education Act makes provision for an internal grievance procedure. Under this section, the parents/guardians of a student who has not yet reached the age of 18 years may appeal:

To the Board of Management against the decision of a teacher or other staff member.

To the Board of Management arising out of a grievance relating to the students school, shall be heard and appropriate remedial action shall be taken where necessary.

In such circumstances, parents are welcome to the school but are requested to have an appointment to ensure adequate time to deal with the complaint. Similarly it is not possible to expect to meet any teacher during class time without a prior appointment.

Expulsion – in the event that the behaviour of a student is considered to be serious, the Principal may refer the matter to the Board of Management, Parents/Guardians have the right to appeal the decision of the Board under Section 29 of the Education Act.

CONDUCTING SEARCHES

Conducting Searches: The Principal / Deputy Principal or a Teacher with responsibility for lockers may request a pupil to show the contents of their schoolbag / pockets, outer clothing, pencil case or any personal property. This would normally happen in the presence of a second pupil and a second member of staff. If the pupil refuses, sanctions will be applied in accordance with the Code of Behaviour. The

Principal may authorise the searching of a pupil's locker or school property without the consent of the pupil. Searches, with or without consent, should only be undertaken when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has a prohibited or stolen item in their possession. Where the principal, or staff authorised by the Principal, find anything which they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item, they may seize, retain and dispose of that item as appropriate. The Principal may contact the Gardaí for advice on how best to proceed. Searches will be conducted in such a manner as to minimise embarrassment or distress. Any search of a pupil's personal property or possessions will be carried out in the presence of the pupil and another member of staff. Where a pupil's property is searched, the searcher and the second member of staff present will usually be the same gender as the pupil. This may not be the case, however, where it is reasonably believed that serious harm may be caused if the search is not carried out immediately and it is not practical to summon another member of staff. Prohibited items: • Knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs and stolen items • Tobacco, cigarette papers, e-cigarettes, fireworks and pornographic images • Any article that a member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence or cause personal injury to or damage to the property of any person (including the pupil) • Any other items as defined in law from time to time • Any other items as proscribed by the Board of Management from time to time.

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Chairperson

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Date

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Review Date