



Toonagh National School

Code of Behaviour

Aims

The aims of the Code of Behaviour of School Toonagh National School are:

- To provide guidance for pupils, teachers and parents on behavioural expectations.
- To provide for the effective and safe operation of the school.
- To develop pupils' self-esteem and to promote positive behaviour.
- To foster the development of a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in pupils based on respect, consideration and tolerance of others.
- To build positive relationships of mutual respect, mutual support among students, staff and parents.
- Encourage students to take personal responsibility for their learning and behaviour.
- Help young people to mature into responsible, participating citizens.
- To facilitate the education and development of every child.
- To foster caring attitudes to one another and to the school environment.
- To enable teachers to teach without disruption.

Implementation

- Every member of the school community has a role to play in the implementation of the Code of Behaviour.
- Rules will be kept to a minimum, emphasise positive behaviour and will be applied in a fair and consistent manner, with due regard to the age of the pupils and to individual difference.
- Good behaviour will be encouraged and rewarded.
- Where difficulties arise, parents will be contacted at an early stage.

General Guidelines for Positive Behaviour

1. Pupils are expected to treat all adults and fellow pupils with respect and courtesy at all times. Behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to feel safe is unacceptable
2. Pupils are expected to show respect for all school property and to keep the school environment clean and litter free.
3. Pupils are expected to take pride in their appearance, to have all books and required materials and to be in the right place at the right time.
4. Pupils are expected to obey a teacher's instructions, to work to the best of their ability and to present assignments neatly.
5. Pupils are expected to attend every day unless there is a genuine reason for absence, in which case the school must be informed in writing, stating the reason for absence. **If a child needs to leave school early, parent(s) must contact the class teacher either orally or by note stating who will collect the child.**

Anti-Bullying Procedures (Please refer to our Anti-Bullying Policy)

In accordance with the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools* bullying is defined as follows:

- Bullying is unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical conducted, by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time.
- The following types of bullying behaviour are included in the definition of bullying:
 - deliberate exclusion, malicious gossip and other forms of relational bullying,
 - cyber-bullying and
 - Identity-based bullying such as homophobic bullying, racist bullying, bullying based on a person's membership of the Traveller community and bullying of those with disabilities or special educational needs.
- Isolated or once-off incidents of intentional negative behaviour, including a once-off offensive or hurtful text message or other private messaging, do not fall within the definition of bullying and should be dealt with, as appropriate, in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.
- However, in the context of this policy, placing a once-off offensive or hurtful public message, image or statement on a social network site or other public forum where that message, image or statement can be viewed and/or repeated by other people will be regarded as bullying behaviour.
- Negative behaviour that does not meet this definition of bullying will be dealt with in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.
- Additional information on different types of bullying is set out in Section 2 of the *Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*.

We want Toonagh N.S. to be free from bullying.

- Problems should be shared.
- We all share responsibility to ensure that bullying is not tolerated.

Affirming Positive Behaviour

Positive reinforcement of good behaviour leads to better self-discipline and we place a greater emphasis on rewards and incentives than on sanctions. These may include:

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment on a child's exercise book.
- A visit to another class or Principal for commendation.
- Praise in front of class group.
- Individual class merit awards, points awards or award stamps.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- Written or verbal communication with parent.

Discouraging Misbehaviour

The purpose of sanctions and other strategies is to promote positive and discourage misbehaviour.

Sanctions will be applied according to the gravity of the misbehaviour, with due regard to age and emotional development. These may include

- Reasoning with pupil.
- Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve.
- Loss of privileges.
- Detention during break.
- Communication with parents.
- Referral to Principal.
- Principal communicating with parents.
- Exclusion (Suspension or Expulsion) from school (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular and Education Welfare Act 2000).

Pupils will not be deprived of engagement in a Curricular Area, except on the grounds of health/safety.

Behaviour on the School Bus

Bus Eireann is responsible for behavioural issues on the school bus.

For guidelines for discipline and procedures for dealing with alleged misbehaviour on school transport, see:

<https://www.buseireann.ie/inner.php?id=426>

Suspension/Expulsion

- Before serious sanctions such as detention, suspension or expulsion are used, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised.
- For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension may be considered. Parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher or pupil will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour.
- 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 do not give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future the pupil may be suspended for a period. Prior to suspension, where possible, the Principal may review the case in consultation with teachers and other members of the school community involved, with due regard to records of previous misbehaviours, their pattern and context, sanctions and other interventions used and their outcomes and any relevant medical information. Suspension will be in accordance with the Rules for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000.
- In the case of gross misbehaviour, where it is necessary to ensure that order and discipline are maintained and to secure the safety of the pupils, the Board may authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding three school days, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents.
- Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with the Rule for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000. Before suspending or expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Local Welfare Education Officer in writing in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.

Removal of Suspension (Reinstatement)

- Following or during a period of suspension, the parent/s may apply to have the pupil reinstated to the school.
- The parent/s must give a satisfactory undertaking that a suspended pupil will behave in accordance with the school code and the Principal must be satisfied that the pupil's reinstatement will not

constitute a risk to the pupil's own safety or that of the other pupils or staff.

- The Principal will facilitate the preparation of a behaviour plan for the pupil if required and will re-admit the pupil formally to the class.

School Rules

- School rules are kept to a minimum and are devised with regard for the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community. If a school is to function efficiently, it is necessary that rules and regulations are clearly stated and enforced consistently and fairly.

General Rules

- (1) Punctuality: School starts at 9.20a.m. Classes for infants end at 2.00p.m. Classes for all other pupils end at 3.00p.m. Pupils are expected to be punctual at all times.
- (2) Absences: Every absence of a child must be accounted for by forwarding a note to the school explaining his/her absence.
- (3) Illness: Any infectious illness should be notified to the school immediately. Parents are asked to be vigilant in this matter.
- (4) Personal Property: Children should have their names on their school uniforms, coats, sportswear, sports equipment and other personal property such as school books, copies, lunch boxes, flasks, etc
- (5) Environment: Pupils must respect all school property and keep the school environment clean and litter free. The Board of Management cannot accept responsibility for anybody trespassing on the school grounds outside of school hours and therefore all such trespass is forbidden.

Behaviour Rules

- (1) There should be no name calling.
- (2) There should be no physical abuse.
- (3) There should be no "ganging" up on people.
- (4) Everyone should feel respected.
- (5) We all share the responsibility that the property of each student, each staff member and school property is respected.
- (6) Anti-social behaviour is not accepted or condoned.

Before/After School

Parents are reminded that

The school will open to receive pupils at the hour of 9:05a.m. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time. Classes will commence each day at 9.20a.m. No pupils should arrive later than 9.20a.m.

Classes will end each day at 3p.m.(2p.m. for Infants). Parents who wish to have their children escorted home should make their own arrangements to have them met at the school gate and the person to escort them should be at the school not later than 3p.m. as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after the children after that time.

Board of Management's Responsibilities

- Provide a comfortable, safe environment.
- Support the Principal and staff in implementing the code.
- Ratify the code.

Principal's Responsibilities

- Promote a positive climate in the school.
- Ensure that the Code of Behaviour is implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
- Arrange for review of the Code, as required.

Teachers' Responsibilities

Support and implement the school's code of behaviour.

- Create a safe working environment for each pupil.
- Recognise and affirm good work.
- Prepare school work and correct work done by pupils.
- 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 instances of serious misbehaviour or repeated instances of misbehaviour.
- Provide support for colleagues.
- Communicate with parents when necessary and provide reports on matters of mutual concern.

Pupils' Responsibilities

- Attend school regularly and punctually.
- Listen to their teachers and act on instructions/advice.
- Show respect for all members of the school community.
- Respect all school property and the property of other pupils.
- Avoid behaving in any way which would endanger others.
- Avoid all hurtful remarks, nasty remarks, swearing and name-calling.
- Include other pupils in games and activities.
- Bring correct materials/books to school.
- Follow school and class rules.

Parents/Guardians' Responsibilities

Encourage children to have a sense of respect for themselves and for property.

- Ensure that children attend regularly and punctually.
- Be interested in, support and encourage their children's school work.
- Be familiar with the code of behaviour and support its implementation.
- Co-operate with teachers in instances where their child's behaviour is causing difficulties for others.
- Communicate with the school in relation to any problems which may affect child's progress/behaviour.

Ratification:

This Policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Toonagh National School at its meeting on 28/02/2018.

Signed: Marie Slattery
(Chairperson, Board of Management)

Date: 28/02/2018

Donnchadh Kelleher
(Principal)

Update and Review:

This Policy was updated and reviewed by the Board of Management of Toonagh National School on 22 June '22

Signed: Marie Slattery
(Chairperson, Board of Management)

Date: 22 June '22

Seasid Roughton
(Principal)