



CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Introductory Statement:

In creating and implementing this Policy we aim to uphold the ethos and vision of Scoil Nioclás Naofa. This Code was drawn up with reference to the NEWB document “Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for Schools”

The Content of the Code:

The Education Welfare Act 2000 sets out certain matters that must be included in a Code of Behaviour. Therefore, in order to comply with these requirements, and in order to have the best chance of achieving its objectives, the Code will address:

- *The standards of behaviour expected in the school.*
- *The plan for promoting good behaviour.*
- *The ways in which the school responds to unacceptable behaviour.*
- *The plan for implementing the Code of Behaviour.*
- *School procedures for the use of suspension and expulsion.*

Ethos:

The ethos of our school is Catholic and Christian. It is based on the Christian philosophy of society in Ireland. We have our set of values that tell us that each pupil is created in God’s image, that he/she has a life to lead to the best of his/her ability and a soul to be saved. We believe that all children are equal in God’s eyes and each is entitled to an equal chance of obtaining optimum personal fulfilment. We equally recognise the diversity of beliefs, values and aspirations of all religious and cultural groups in our community.

Our school will be a very important agent along with the home, the church, and the community in the development of each child. Every effort will be made to ensure that the child’s all-round development is healthy and harmonious.

In accordance with our School Ethos, all pupils, of varying abilities are encouraged to adopt a positive attitude towards learning within and without the school.

The Standards of Behaviour expected in the school:

It is the policy of Scoil Nioclás Naofa that good behaviour would be acknowledged and rewarded. Anything that compromises the safety of fellow pupils or staff members is considered unacceptable.

The expectations are that all play activity would be respectful and mindful of the rights of other pupils and staff members.

Basic Principles:

The following principles underline our Code of Behaviour:

- *Each child has a right to receive an education in a relatively disruption free environment.*
- *Each child has a right to be accommodated in our school and to feel welcome in an inclusive learning environment.*
- *Each child needs to feel that he/she will be protected and cared for in a non-threatening learning environment.*
- *All who work in our school will be expected to deal with people in an inclusive and self- respectful manner.*
- *Those who visit our school will be expected to uphold our Code where self respect and respect for others lay at its core.*

Working Together:

Every effort will be made in Scoil Nioclás Naofa, Dunmore to establish and maintain good relationships between all who are involved in the school – children, teachers, parents and the Board of Management. This will greatly promote and maintain high standards of behaviour and discipline.

Aims and Objectives:

The aim of the Code is to develop a positive school environment where learning and development can take place. It seeks to promote the highest possible degree of consensus about standards of behaviour among staff, parents and pupils.

The Code seeks to instil in all pupils, a sense of self-worth and a sense of respect for themselves and others. It seeks to establish an atmosphere where all contributions are valued and efforts rewarded.

It strives to bring the school to a level where good behaviour, positive attitudes and comments, inclusive play and healthy attitudes to life are considered the norm.

Working With Teachers:

The teachers will have positive expectations with regard to the pupils and will insist firmly on honest effort and commitment from pupils and on high standards of behaviour.

The teachers need and are entitled to the support of parents in order that mutual expectations with regard to behaviour and discipline can be met. Regular communication with parents takes place which greatly adds to a positive working atmosphere.

Responsibilities of Teachers and Parents:

- *The overall responsibility for discipline within Scoil Nioclás Naofa rests with the Principal*
- *Each teacher has the responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within the classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good discipline within the school premises. Classroom rules play a pivotal role in monitoring behaviour.*
- *Parents play a pivotal role in the promotion of good behaviour in the school and their role is one of backup to the teaching staff. Regular communication on all school matters plays a crucial role in the maintenance of effective procedures. When parents respond to notes from the teacher, in a prompt manner, any areas of difficulty can be dealt with at the initial stage.*

General School Rules and Procedures:

The following general rules apply throughout the School:

- *School begins at 9.20 am and ends at 3 pm. Pupils are required to be on time, to remain on the school property and leave only with permission of or in the care of a parent/guardian.*
- *Pupils are advised to be vigilant when coming to and going home from school, showing particular care when crossing the main road and using footpaths.*
- *All movement within the school must be in an orderly manner, with due regard for safety. Children are expected to walk on the corridors and to obey the school bell.*
- *Pupils are absolutely forbidden to leave school grounds without the permissions/supervision of a teacher.*
- *Pupils are required to bring all necessary equipment for school and to do their homework to the best of their ability.*
- *Full uniform or tracksuit must be worn at all times on the days appointed.*

- *Written permission for participation in school events must be provided by parents.*

Classroom Rules & Procedures:

The following rules apply in all classrooms. The list may be amended by individual teachers as needed.

- *Listen carefully to your teacher and classmates.*
- *Let one person speak at a time.*
- *Let everyone have an opinion and give an answer in a safe environment, free of sarcasm and ridicule.*
- *Follow the directions and instructions of your teacher.*
- *Work quietly, not disturbing others.*
- *Keep your work space tidy.*
- *Present your work in the best possible way.*
- *Raise your hand to get the teacher's attention, and ask permission to leave your place.*
- *Enter and leave the room in an orderly, safe fashion.*
- *If you need to talk to your teacher about something very important, wait for a quiet moment when he/she can listen carefully.*

Playground Rules and Procedures:

- *As a general rule, we encourage all children to enjoy their playtime by being active. Our field is divided up into play areas for each class, and the children are encouraged to use the field, weather permitting.*
- *The teachers on supervision duty will follow the basic principle, already stated, i.e. that any behaviour that compromises the safety and wellbeing of other pupils is unacceptable. This applies, in particular, to rough, dangerous or violent play.*
- *The safety of pupils on the yard is of paramount importance. It is the duty of the teacher to intervene if safety is being compromised.*

Positive Attitudes:

The children will be encouraged to have positive attitudes towards punctuality and attendance. A sense of individual responsibility in these areas is crucially important as the children head towards second level.

They will be encouraged to have good manners and show courtesy and consideration for others at home, in school and in the local and wider community.

They will be encouraged to respect and take care of their own property, school property and the property of others.

They will be encouraged to display tidiness in the way they care for their own property and in the way they do their work.

Teachers will incorporate rewards for good behaviour in their approach to classroom management. This will encourage the children to co-operate in all school activities. Positive re-enforcement and “catching the children being good” are ways which the children can implement a system of self-discipline.

All children will be encouraged to value their own contribution to school life whether it be in the area of formal school subjects, sport, art, music, drama, etc.

Plan for Promoting Good Behaviour:

- *Each teacher will draw up a set of classroom rules, in consultation with the children.*
- *Rewards for good behaviour in class such as “Golden Time”, homework passes, extra physical activity outside, DVDs, etc. will be regularly implemented.*
- *Teachers on yard duty will communicate with the class teachers to draw attention to good behaviour on the yard, so that rewards can be given.*
- *The SPHE curriculum will be taught in full, with particular reference to relationship building.*
- *Social skills programmes, such as “Friends First” will be taught as deemed appropriate.*

Responding to Unacceptable Behaviour:

In its approach to supporting good learning behaviour, and responding to inappropriate behaviour, the school has devised a systematic way of attending to both the impact of inappropriate behaviour on other students and staff, and the impact of a sanction on the student.

When inappropriate behaviour occurs, either in class, around the building, or in the playground, the following procedures, by way of sanction, will apply:

1. *The pupil will be given a verbal warning or warnings at the teacher’s discretion.*
2. *After a repeat or series of similar instances of misbehaviour and non-cooperation, the class teacher will write a note, in the homework journal, for the parents. This note must be signed by a parent to indicate that the parent knows about the issue.*
3. *If this behaviour continues, then a second note is sent by the class teacher, inviting the parents to come to the school to discuss the matter. The teacher will have recorded the chronology of events leading up to this point. It is hoped that the parent and teacher can then agree a programme of intervention which may involve rewards and/or sanctions.*

4. *Dangerous play on the yard, or field, and the use of abusive language, (towards other pupils or staff members) are considered to be serious issues. The teacher on duty will give the child a verbal reprimand, and stop the game for the safety of others. A note will be sent home and if there is no improvement and this type of behaviour continues, then the following sanctions may be used in accordance with NEWB guidelines:*

- *Temporary withdrawal from the group.*
- *Temporary withdrawal of privileges.*
- *Temporary withdrawal from a particular lesson or peer group.*

It is hoped that all pupils will respond to any verbal reprimand given and not challenge the teacher by answering back or using abusive language. All pupils should be in a position to enjoy their playtime without having the teacher on duty to intervene in any major way.

Implementing the Code of Behaviour:

This Code of Behaviour builds upon the excellent standards of behaviour that are characteristic of Scoil Nioclás Naofa. It will be implemented as follows:

- *Classroom rules will be compiled (in consultation with the pupils) and displayed in all classrooms.*
- *Good behaviour will be acknowledged and rewarded by all teachers.*
- *Parents will receive a note from the teacher when an issue around behaviour arises, so that an agreed response involving home and school can be arrived at.*
- *The teaching of mutual respect and co-operation within the SPHE programme (e.g. Walk Tall and Stay Safe) will be emphasised in all classes.*

Procedures for the use of Suspension and Expulsion:

As access to education shapes the life chances of children, a proposal to exclude a student, through suspension or expulsion, is a serious step, warranted only by very serious misbehaviour.

Suspension should be a proportional response to the behaviour that is causing concern. All other interventions will have been tried before suspension, and school staff will have reviewed the reasons why they have not worked. The decision to suspend a student requires serious grounds such as that:

- *The student's behaviour has had a seriously detrimental effect on the education of other students.*
- *The student's continued presence in the school at this time constitutes a threat to safety.*
- *The student is responsible for serious damage to property.*

A single incident of serious misconduct may be grounds for suspension.

Procedures for suspension and expulsion are set out in great detail in chapters 10, 11 and 12 of the NEWB document “Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for Schools”. It is the policy of this school that all these procedural requirements will be followed, should the need arise. This requirement on schools is pursuant upon section 23 (2) of the Education Welfare Act 2000.

Evaluation & Review:

This Code of Behaviour was the subject of review in October 2017. It will be reviewed on a termly basis.

Ratification:

This Code of Behaviour was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Nioclás Naofa on October 3rd, 2017.

Signature of Chairperson: _____ Albert Comer

Date: 3rd October, 2017 _____

Signature of Principal: _____ John O’Mahony

Date: 3rd October, 2017 _____