



St. Michael's School

Code of Behaviour

February 2017

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Introduction and Rationale:

The Code of Behaviour Policy has been developed in line with our School Ethos, Mission Statement and Schedule for Catholic Schools.

St. Michael's School provides a secure, healthy and caring environment which values the uniqueness of each person. (*Mission Statement*)

We strive to build an educational system which is based on respect for persons, on the recognition of their potential, and on the acceptance of human limitations. We endeavour to foster an all-round growth and development of each person, ensuring that the educational approach meets individual requirements.

All pupils, from whatever background or level of ability, have a right to be valued and respected, to be educated in a secure and caring environment, and to have their abilities and talents nurtured and developed to their full potential.

St. Michael's School does not cater for pupils with serious behavioural problems, conduct disorders, and/or emotional disorders which might prevent the pupil or others from benefiting from the educational programme. (*Admissions Policy*)

Teachers are viewed as being *in loco parentis* during the course of the school day and as having certain parental powers delegated to them, so that they can perform their duties. Each member of staff should be consistent in enforcing the code of behaviour throughout the School, and has an important role to play in this area. Staff members should be aware of circumstances and of particular diagnosis of pupils which may affect behaviour.

Aims:

In order to function effectively and to serve the particular needs of our pupils, our overall aim is to create a safe, secure and orderly environment, so that all pupils are given the opportunity to learn, achieve and be successful in our school, relatively free from disruption. We also emphasize the need for pupils to respect each other and those who work with them. We believe that pupils have a responsibility to respect the wider community and promote a positive image of the school.

The code of behaviour aims to:

- Create the conditions for an orderly school, in which effective learning and development can take place and in which there is a mutual respect for the needs and aspirations of pupils and staff.
- Ensure that teachers can deliver the educational programme and that staff members can work effectively in the interests of all pupils.
- Foster caring attitudes to one another and towards the environment
- Promote high standards of order and behaviour, thereby

- Assisting the full development of the potential of all pupils,
 - Ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of the school community,
 - Developing personalities and inculcating attitudes which enable pupils to live satisfying lives.
- Encourage the pupils to develop independence by accepting the need for self-discipline and self-control and taking responsibility for their own behaviour.
 - Develop the pupils' interpersonal skills and their ability to work co-operatively with others to resolve problems and address actual conflict as the need arises.

Objectives:

“Thinking of others” should be our motto and pupils are helped to see that our school is caring of their own welfare and that of the whole school community.

Our school's objectives are to:

- Encourage an environment in which good staff/pupil and pupil/pupil relationships can develop.
- Develop in pupils a sense of responsibility to themselves, to the staff and to the school.
- Recognise, reward and publicise the positive behaviour and achievements of pupils.
- Create an atmosphere of courtesy and tolerance.
- Recognise the importance of attendance, punctuality and appearance.
- Prevent pupils being disadvantaged by the behaviour of others.
- Promote the care of, and respect for:
 - Pupils, Staff and School Community
 - The property of pupils, staff and students on work experience
 - The premises/resources of the school and environment.
- Encourage acceptable behaviour:
 - On school and public transport
 - On the roads to and from school
 - In the environment of the school
 - While on school approved outings and when representing the school at out-of-school activities

Underpinning Principles:

We recognise the variety of differences that exist between pupils and the need to respect these differences. As a staff, we are conscious of the ongoing need to ensure that the code of behaviour is implemented in a fair and consistent manner. A high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school and a high level of co-operation among staff and between staff, pupils and parents/guardians.

General Guidelines:

The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the Principal Teacher. The Post-Holders assist the Principal in implementing school discipline, and maintain, as far as possible, a supervisory presence on the school campus. 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. Breaches of discipline are dealt with by the staff in a caring, supportive and fair manner. A pupil will be referred to the Principal Teacher for serious breaches of discipline and for repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour.

CCTV

The school has installed a CCTV camera system to assist in supervising and monitoring pupils' behaviour in the school environment. These cameras have been installed to optimise the safety of both pupils and staff in the school. There are sixteen cameras in total, covering the following areas:

- Foyer
- Area at Senior Girls and Boys Toilet doors
- Area at Junior Girls and Boys Toilet doors
- Reception and front door area
- Side door to the right of the statue of Our Lady
- Prayer Room Corridor
- Three pathways at garden area adjacent to Cookery Kitchen / Prayer Room
- Grass area at exit door opposite Junior 4
- Outside front of New Building
- Dinner Room Corridor
- Main Corridor at Junior 2
- Main Corridor at Junior 5
- Main Corridor at St. Louise's Class / Girls Senior Toilets
- Corridor in New Building showing Fire Door
- Corridor in New Building showing Toilet Doors
- Steps entering the Yard and view of Gymnasium Door

School Environment:

1. In the interest of safety, pupils are asked to use the allocated entrances and exits at all times
2. Pupils must not climb over any of the boundary fences, walls or barriers
3. Pupils are expected to remain within the playground boundaries during breaks
4. Pupils are expected to **walk** on the corridors and stairs, showing respect and consideration for staff and other pupils at all times

Attendance at School – Information Booklet:

Punctuality and regular attendance by the pupils is expected.

- The pupils must have a letter from their Parent/Guardian when early departure from school is requested.
- The Parent/Guardian of a pupil who is absent from school shall notify the Principal of the school with the reasons for the pupil's absence. This is done by completing the appropriate section in the pupil's journal which is recorded on the Aladdin System. There is a statutory obligation as outlined in the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 to report pupils' absences to the National Educational Welfare Board, irrespective of the reasons given for the absences. This will happen if a pupil has missed a total of 20 days in the school year, even if those absences are accounted for by letter.

Parental Involvement:

To help in maintaining good standards of behaviour, the Staff in St. Michael's School rely on the good will, support and co-operation of Parents/Guardians. We ask Parents/Guardians to:

- Read the Information Booklet and be familiar with its contents
- Communicate regularly with the school about any factors likely to affect the behaviour of their son/daughter in school
- Ensure that their son/daughter attends school regularly and arrives in good time, with homework completed, is suitably dressed and well equipped for the lessons of the day ahead
- Be aware of school rules and procedures, and encourage their son/daughter to abide by them
- Act as positive role models for their son/daughter in their relationship with the school
- Attend planned meetings with teachers and support school functions
- Provide the school with all the necessary background information about their son/daughter, including telling the school promptly about any concerns they have about school, or any significant change in their son/daughter's medical needs or home circumstances.

Standards of desirable behaviour expected from pupils should involve:

- Arriving on time for classes
- Recognising that all pupils have a right to share in and contribute during classes
- Applying themselves to the task, and working to the best of their ability
- Having their own books/equipment for the appropriate class
- Co-operating with the staff and peers on shared activities
- Listening, without interrupting
- Showing respect for the views, ideas and property of others
- Tolerating differences and accepting difficulties of others
- Adhering to the accepted conventions of courtesy and good manners
- Responding positively to opportunities to act independently of the teacher/special needs assistant
- Showing initiative at age appropriate level
- Showing willingness to write down homework.

Strategies For Promoting Positive Behaviour:

Fostering of good behaviour and acknowledgement of good work plays an important role in overall discipline. Positive behaviour is acknowledged at Assemblies. The Public Address System is used to commend achievements.

As a Staff, we believe in promoting positive behaviour by:

- Providing an appropriate broad curriculum
- Good quality teaching
- Using varied teaching approaches
- Developing a pleasant, safe and stimulating learning environment
- Developing co-operative learning
- Giving constructive feedback to pupils about their work and progress
- Communicating in journals or by telephone with Parents/Guardians
- Encouraging good relationships and affirming good behaviour
- Striving for high standards and having high expectations
- Stating clear and consistent expectations
- Exploring with pupils how people should treat each other
- Directing pupils to understand why the Code of Behaviour is important and that it is carried out in a fair way
- Granting appropriate recognition and rewards. These include stars, stickers, homework vouchers and pupil of the week. (Age Appropriate)
- Delegating some special privileges or responsibilities.

A particularly important event is our Annual Prize-Giving Day in the Summer Term. The Post-Holder, in consultation with staff recognises, among others, many of the following areas:

- Pupil of the year
- Most outstanding contributor in the class
- Kindness and concern for other pupils
- Treating others with respect
- Best classroom helper
- Best attendance during the year
- Best Homework achievements
- Showing common sense and maturity
- Developing a positive classroom atmosphere
- Acceptance of correction
- Effort made to eat a healthy snack
- Continuous effort to wear school uniform
- Awards are also given for individual subjects and Sport.

Unacceptable Behaviour:

Unacceptable behaviour is categorised under Minor Breaches of Discipline and Serious Breaches of Discipline. Judgement on the part of staff is based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity and frequency of breaches of discipline.

Examples of Minor Breaches of Discipline

- Not wearing school uniform
- Not completing homework
- Interrupting class work
- Not attending class on time
- Refusal to return to class on time from breaks
- Being unmannerly and discourteous
- Name calling/bad language
- Running on corridors/pushing on stairs/ramp
- Throwing litter around classroom or school grounds
- Not having Journal in school
- Eating in classrooms other than at designated times
- Wearing of excessive jewellery
- Possession of mobile phones in school

These are examples of minor breaches of discipline and this list is not exhaustive.

Examples of Serious Breaches of Discipline

- Persistent disruption of teaching and learning
- Bullying/Harassment in any form
- Physical or Verbal Aggression towards others
- Deliberate violent behaviour towards another pupil or staff causing harm or putting him/her at risk of a serious injury
- Using unacceptable language/offensive language towards a staff member
- Participating in games considered to be dangerous to oneself or others
- Throwing objects in yard/classroom
- Damaging other pupils' property/school property
- Using graffiti on school property or school furniture
- Possession of dangerous weapons
- Deliberate misuse of equipment during practical subjects
- Possession or display of unsuitable materials
- Regular non-possession of books, pens, etc. for classes
- Telling lies
- Stealing
- Leaving school premises or going beyond school boundaries within Glenmaroon environment
- Possession of cigarettes and smoking
- Possession of alcohol in school
- Possession, use, promotion for sale or sale of solvents or non-prescribed drugs
- Taking photographs or photographic images of staff or pupils by any media, e.g. camera phones
- Inappropriate use of any electronic device
- Persistent misbehaviour in school causing concern for safety of others

Strategies for Addressing Unacceptable Behaviour:

The school rules are clearly stated in our Information Booklet, a copy of which is given to all parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year. New rules may be introduced as and when circumstances arise. Rules are enforced consistently and fairly. Staff are committed to addressing unacceptable behaviour.

- Rules in each class are consistent with the Ethos of the school in terms of safety, learning, communication and respect
- Staff and pupils together devise the rules
- Rules are expressed in positive terms
- Rules are discussed and displayed in classrooms, school corridor and addressed at Assembly
- Rules and routines are explicitly taught
- All rules are modelled by staff
- Some skills are specifically taught in the S.P.H.E. Curriculum – communicating skills, appropriate ways of interacting and behaving and conflict resolution skills.

- Understanding of rules is checked and pupils are encouraged to explain rules in their own words
- Parental involvement is encouraged in addressing unacceptable behaviour
- Additional support for some pupils is managed through the help of Special Needs Assistants
- Concise arrangements for supervision are in place and are reviewed regularly at staff meetings
- A high level of organisation and supervision is in place at the times of arrival and dispersal of pupils and also during wet days when they remain indoors for breaks.

School's response to Misbehaviour requiring Internal Exclusion/Time Out:

The primary reason for internal exclusion/time out is to protect pupils' and staffs' rights (including the right to feel safe and the right to learn). It gives the pupil and the others in the classroom/group time to cool down and regain composure. The pupil learns to make the connection between behaviour and outcome.

If a pupil continues to disrupt a lesson he/she may need to be withdrawn from the classroom. Reasons for internal exclusion may include:

- Persistent disruption to lessons involving shouting/screaming
- Foul and abusive language to staff
- Misuse of equipment and furniture
- Bullying and unpleasantness to others
- Refusal to follow school procedures
- Threatening/aggressive behaviour towards others

The following procedures are followed:

- The pupil may be separated from the class/group in the classroom or outside
- Clear, firm direction is given respectfully to the pupil
- Arguments, discussion or bargaining must be avoided
- Class is redirected to their work in a calm manner
- Record of behaviour/exclusion completed
- Supervision of pupil and class is maintained throughout period of exclusion
- If the pupil refuses to leave, additional help is sought from Principal/In-School Management Team and parents/guardians are contacted.

Challenging Behaviour:

We value the uniqueness of all pupils within a caring school community. We believe that:

- All staff and pupils have the right to work in a safe and secure environment

- Parents/guardians should be comfortable in the knowledge that their child is being educated in a safe, caring and respectful environment.

We maintain a safe environment by:

- Reflecting on decisions and outcomes
- Learning from experience gained
- Being proactive rather than reactive.

With no universally accepted definition to be included of what constitutes challenging behaviour, some common definitions identify key elements of:

- Intensity, frequency and/or duration of the behaviours,
- The negative effects the behaviour has on everyone concerned
- How services become ineffective to protect people.

The use of physical restraint is not advocated here in St. Michael's School.

No matter how skilfully and sensitively pupils are managed, a small minority may occasionally engage in challenging behaviour, which threatens the safety of other pupils and staff. The pupil is encouraged to respond to requests to calm down, he/she should be removed from the situation as soon as possible. The Principal/Deputy Principal/Assistant Principals are contacted who will take immediate action to contact and involve parents/guardians.

Types of Challenging Behaviour:

- Physical aggression towards self and/or others, e.g. lashing out, knocking furniture over etc.
- Real danger of injury to self and/or others
- General disruption of a persistent nature in whatever else is going on within that environment
- Stereotypical/ritualistic behaviours
- The increased likelihood that the pupil involved will participate less and less in educational activities
- Stress for everyone involved – the pupil, other pupils, staff and any students on placement and indirectly the family.

Managing Challenging Behaviour (SESS):

I-ASSIST	This Avoids:
<u>I</u> solate the situation	Audience effects
<u>A</u> ctively listen	Negative expectations
<u>S</u> peak calmly, assertively and respectfully	Aggressive/disrespectful language
<u>S</u> tatements of understanding	Thoughtless coercive commands
<u>I</u> nvide pupil to consider positive outcomes	Threats or suggestions, e.g. don't you dare
<u>S</u> pace to pupil to consider	Crowding and pressuring

Time to pupil to respond	Demand for immediate compliance
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Refer to Seven Principles For Effective Verbal Intervention - Appendix I

Facilities/Supports in Managing Challenging Behaviour:

- Supervision levels increased, e.g. availability of a Special Needs Assistant and of the Principal/Deputy Principal/Assistant Principal
- Consistency and Communication
- Supporting staff, e.g. after incident
- Record keeping
- Intervention by/assistance from outside agencies where access is available
- Staff development and training.

Teacher Response to Misbehaviour:

Breaches of discipline should be dealt with **swiftly** by the teachers. They are responsible for the maintenance of discipline within their own classrooms and whilst on supervision duties.

Staff will:

- be sensitive to the language used in describing inappropriate behaviour
- make every effort to understand the reasons leading to incidents
- use school's recording system
- follow procedures as outlined in the Code of Behaviour and as printed in the Information Booklet.

Recording Behaviour

The class teachers are provided with two folders which include:

- Anti-Bullying Behaviour Tracker (Appendix 2)
- DES Template for recording bullying behaviour (Appendix 3)
- Behaviour, Detention & Uniform Record Book (Appendices 4,5 & 6)

Indiscipline is recorded on the Behaviour Record Sheet or Anti-Bullying Behaviour Tracker, as appropriate. After three incidents of misbehaviour, the book should be sent to the office. A copy of the record sheet is posted to parents/guardians who may also be contacted by telephone. The record should indicate the warnings and/or advice given to the pupil on the misbehaviour and the consequences of its repetition. Pupils should be informed which instances of behaviour on their part are being recorded. Where necessary, Behaviour Support Plans may be put in place and should be extended / continued on school transport services.

Any incidents of bullying are dealt with in accordance with our Anti-Bullying Policy.

Two books are available from the office:

- Incident Book
- Serious Incident Book

When necessary, prior to the completion of three incidents, the above may be used to inform parents/guardians. Parents/guardians are generally contacted as soon as possible when a serious incident is recorded.

An Incident Record Sheet is available to Bus Escorts (Appendices 7 & 8) to be used for the recording of incidents on school transport services, a copy of which is retained in the school and may be sent to parents/guardians.

The driver/bus contractor reports any serious incidents on school transport services to Bus Eireann in the interests of safety for all travelling on this service.

School Procedures in response to Misbehaviour

1. The School response to misbehaviour follows closely the guidelines set out by the Department of Education and Skills.
2. Sanctions for the infringement of School Rules will be determined by the Principal/Staff.
3. Disciplinary decisions are taken in a spirit of concern for the individual pupil. The welfare of other pupils may also be a factor in such decisions.
4. Should an incident be repeated of a more serious nature, a record will be kept. Parents / Guardians will be contacted by telephone.
5. Repeated misbehaviours, challenging in nature, will be dealt with in a sensitive, tolerant and positive manner which will aid the growth and development of the unique individual concerned.

The following is the general procedure which is used to deal with misbehaviour and includes a written report in the Class Behaviour Record Book:

1. Discussion with pupil
2. Initial warning given
3. Sanctions. May include:
 - Temporary separation from other pupils
 - Detention during mid-morning break and/or lunchtime under supervision
 - Withdrawal of privileges
 - Performing a useful task in the school
 - Notification in journal, behaviour recorded
4. Inform the Principal/Parent/Pupil of the next step
5. Meeting with Parents, Staff and/or Principal
6. Suspension (temporary) for serious misbehaviour
7. Expulsion, in accordance with Section 24 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000. In the case of serious misbehaviour, an Incident Report is written and the issue is dealt with immediately.

Sanctions for Misbehaviour:

Sanctions:

- show disapproval and discourage unacceptable behaviour
- help pupils learn about appropriate behaviour
- signal to other pupils and staff that their well-being is being protected
- prevent serious disruption of teaching and learning.

They should be, as far as possible, relevant, related to the misbehaviour and flexible to address individual circumstances. Curriculum subjects, such as Art and P.E., will not be withdrawn from a pupil except where her/his behaviour in such a class is a source of danger or disruption to others.

In imposing a sanction, it is the misbehaviour which is unacceptable and not the individual.

Detentions and Implementation

When the sanction of ‘detention’ is imposed, the pupil is detained under continuous supervision during their normal lunch-break for the period commencing at 12.25 p.m. and ending at 12.45 p.m.

The sanction of ‘detention’ is imposed on a pupil under the following circumstances:

- If a teacher decides that an incident of misbehaviour warrants a detention.
- If a pupil has received three notes/entries in the Class ‘Anti-Bullying, Behaviour and Detention Record Book’.

The management and implementation of ‘detention’ periods imposed are as follows:

- a) **Initiation and Recording a Detention**
 - When a detention is warranted, the offending pupil’s name will be entered on the detention list and the detention will be enacted the following school day. The ‘detention list’ will be kept on the ‘Supervision’ noticeboard underneath the teacher ‘Detention Duty Rota’.
 - The incident of detention being applied must also be recorded by the teacher in the Class ‘Anti-Bullying, Behaviour and Detention Record Book’.
 - The Principal will display a ‘Detention Card’ instruction/reminder beside the sign-on book on days when detentions are to be given.
- b) **Implementing a Detention**
 - On the day of the detention the pupil will remain in his/her classroom (when class finishes for lunch break) until 12.25 p.m. under the

supervision of an SNA. The SNA will be informed of such pupil(s) detention by the teacher on detention duty or the class teacher.

- The Post-Holder on duty from 12.05 – 12.25 p.m. will check on these pupils.
- At 12.25 p.m. the pupil and the Class 'Anti-Bullying, Behaviour and Detention Record Book' will be collected from the classroom by the teacher on detention duty. The pupil will be brought to the New Building (where there will be an SNA on duty). The pupil will be given a standardised 'Conflict Resolution Sheet' to complete.

There are two such standardised 'Conflict Resolution Sheets', one for pupils in the senior school and one for pupils in the junior school. These sheets are kept in a basket in Room 1 of the New Building.

- At 12.35 p.m. the pupil's dinner (on the standard lunch tray and wrapped in cling film) will be brought to the room for the pupil if ordered, or alternatively he/she may have his/her own lunch at his/her discretion.

The dinner will be brought to the room by a responsible senior pupil.

- In the event that there are two or more pupils being detained, the detentions may be given on a one-to-one basis, when necessary.

c) Ending the detention

- The detention period will end at 12.45 p.m. and the pupil will then be escorted to the yard by the teacher to join his/her class.
- After lunch, any lunch trays used during the detention period will be returned to the kitchen by a senior pupil.

If a pupil refuses to attend for detention imposed, then:

- A phone call will be made to his/her parents/guardians by the class teacher.
- The pupil will not be allowed to their class the following day. He/She will be taken aside in the Foyer by the Principal and placed into a different class with assigned work from his/her class teacher. The pupil must also do their detention on this day.
- If a pupil refuses to attend for detention again, then the class teacher may phone his/her parents/guardians for them to come to the school.

There will be a rota kept of teachers' names for detention duty (in order of seniority). If a teacher who is next on the list is unable to do the detention duty due to other supervision duties, then the next teacher on the list will take the detention duty. However, the initial teacher will not be excused from detention duty and will be on the list for the next detention duty.

Serious misbehaviour:

Should an incident be of a more serious nature, i.e. intentionally injuring or attempting to injure others, maliciously undermining the status of staff in public, degrading or disrespectful verbal abuse of staff or others, it is recommended that the staff member involved:

- Records the event in the Serious Incident Book which is available in the School office. The original copy is generally posted home or can be given to the pupil after parents/guardians are contacted. Pupils should be informed which instances of serious behaviour on their part is being recorded.
- Following consultation with the Principal/Deputy Principal/member of the In-School Management Team, phones home. Phone numbers are available in the office and from the Deputy Principal. Parents/Guardians should be kept fully informed from the outset of instances of serious misbehaviour on the part of their children.

Incidents involving knives, blades or any other threatening instrument, drugs, theft, arson, serious assault, verbal abuse, behaviour threatening the health and safety of others or damage to school property are likely to lead to suspension. In such cases Parents/Guardians are notified and are made aware of their right to appeal the decision.

Serious cases of misbehaviour must be brought to the attention of the Principal.

Procedures to be followed in cases of Persistent/Serious Misbehaviour:

When a behaviour problem persists, the following procedures are followed:

- If the problem persists, or in the case of serious misbehaviour, it may be necessary to have on-going discussions between the Parents/Guardians, Teachers and Principal to monitor the situation – always with the objective of helping the pupil.
- If the case arises of a pupil being **continuously disruptive** or there is a **serious breach of discipline** by a pupil, the Board of Management authorises the Chairperson / Principal to exclude/suspend such a pupil or pupils from school. Parents/Guardians are always notified and are expected to attend a meeting with the Principal/Deputy Principal and relevant staff. A special decision of the Board of Management is necessary to authorise a further period of exclusion to allow for consultation with the pupil's Parents/Guardians. In exceptional circumstances the Board of Management may authorise a further period of exclusion in order to enable the matter to be reviewed.
- The ultimate sanction of expulsion shall be exercised in accordance with The Education Welfare Act 2000.

The pupil(s) may be referred with parental permission to outside agencies for the deemed necessary interventions where these exist.

Referrals may also be made to outside agencies, the Special Education Needs Organiser and the Juvenile Liaison Officer.

Suspension & Expulsion – Admissions Policy

The Board of Management is required by law to maintain a level of safety throughout the school and on all school activities consistent with the Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005 and discharges this duty through its employees, the Principal and staff.

Pupils enrolled in St. Michael's School are obliged to co-operate with and support the school's Code of Behaviour. In accordance with the Department of Education & Skills 'Rules for National Schools' (130), the obligations on St. Michael's School Board under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act (2005) and the guidelines as laid down by the National Educational Welfare Board, it may be necessary to temporarily or permanently exclude a pupil from the school. The procedure necessary for suspension or for expulsion is set out in Section 24 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000.

Suspension will be availed of either after all minor sanctions have been exhausted or as a response to a single breach of school discipline where any lesser sanction would be inappropriate in the circumstances.

The Board of Management empowers the Principal to impose a suspension. A pupil will not be suspended for more than three days, except in exceptional circumstances where the Principal considers that a period of suspension longer than three days is needed in order to achieve a particular objective. If a suspension of longer than three days is imposed by the Principal, the matter will be referred to the Board of Management for consideration and approval, giving the circumstances and expected outcomes.

However, the Board of Management authorises the Principal, with the approval of the Chairperson, to impose a suspension of up to five days in circumstances where a meeting of the Board cannot be convened sooner. The Board of Management places a ceiling of ten days on any one period of suspension imposed by it.

Under the provisions of Section 24 (4)(a) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 where a pupil is suspended for a period of six or more days, the Principal shall inform the Educational Welfare Officer immediately by notice in writing.

The parent/guardian must accompany the pupil to the school for a meeting with the relevant staff prior to his/her return to school. Where the total number of days for which the pupil has been suspended in the current school year reaches twenty days, the parents/guardians or the pupil, if over eighteen years, may appeal the suspension under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998, as amended by the Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007.

Suspension

Suspension/Expulsion procedures will comply with the following:

- Rule 139, Rules for National Schools
- Education Welfare Act (2000)
- CPSMA Management Board Members' Handbook

- National Educational Welfare Board – Guidelines, Developing a Code of Behaviour.

Open and clear communication is very important in the event of a suspension and on the pupil's return to school.

Implementation of procedures will take into account such factors as:

- Age of pupil
- Any particular circumstances unique to the pupil
- Pupil's previous record at the school
- The extent to which peer or other pressure may have contributed to the behaviour
- The degree of severity of the behaviour and the frequency of offences
- The health and safety of all pupils and staff
- The rights of the individual pupil and the balance of these with the common good and rights of other pupils.

Procedures to be followed in the event of a Suspension:

1. The Principal should contact and inform the parents/guardians and state clearly the reasons for the suspension.
2. The Principal should inform the pupil of the reason for the suspension.
3. The Principal should inform the parents/guardians and the pupil in writing of the decision to suspend.
4. The letter should confirm the beginning and ending dates of the suspension, the reasons for the suspension and the cancellation of the School Transport Services.
5. The driver and escort should be informed that transport will not be required during the period of suspension.
6. The letter should contain appointment for a meeting, giving exact date and time for parents/guardians to accompany the pupil to the school prior to his/her return.
7. The letter should contain expectations to be accepted and agreed by the pupil/parents/guardians for the return to school.
8. Parents/Guardians/Pupil should be informed of their right and how to appeal to the Secretary General of the Department of Education (Section 29, Education Act 1998)

Suspension allows pupils time with their parents/guardians to reflect on their behaviour, to acknowledge and accept responsibility for the behaviour and to address what need to happen in order to change the behaviour. It allows time for the staff to plan and seek appropriate support for the pupil. Depending on the nature and extent of the misbehaviour, support will be sought from other agencies such as the National Council for Special Education (SENO), Túsla Child & Family Agency, the National Educational Psychological Service, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Removal of Suspension (Reinstatement)

Parents/Guardians must give a satisfactory undertaking that the suspended pupil will behave in accordance with the school code of behaviour. 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. A Behaviour Plan will be prepared by staff if required. The Principal will re-admit the pupil formally back to school and when necessary to the class.

Expulsion

Expulsion is the ultimate sanction. Authority to expel is reserved to the Board of Management. Every effort will be made by the staff before resorting to expulsion. Parents/Guardians will be kept informed throughout the procedure.

The procedure in the event of an expulsion is outlined in Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for Schools - National Educational Welfare Board. These procedures will be adhered to.

Links to other Policies

- Information Booklet
- Admissions Policy
- Homework Policy
- Parental Complaints Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Mid-morning break and Lunchtime Policy
- Supervision Policy
- Substance Use Policy
- Mobile Phones Policy
- Whole School Plan for SPHE

Success Criteria

General good behaviour by pupils in the school engenders the following attribute;

- Atmosphere of discipline within the school.
- Pupils are aware of school rules.
- Staff apply school rules.
- Growth in self-discipline.
- Co-operation between parents/guardians, staff and pupils in maintaining the Code of Behaviour.
- Comments or compliments on behaviour.
- Pupils working to the best of their ability.
- Classes working to the best of their ability.

- Improvement in standards of behaviour.

Review

This policy was re-visited in April 2006. The policy was then presented to the Board of Management at a meeting held on 31st May 2006. From 2006 – June 2009, the policy was revisited again when In-Service was given to staff by facilitators from the SDPS and SESS on Challenging Behaviour, Preventing and Managing Challenging Behaviour – Strategies and Skills for the Classroom and Therapeutic Management of Aggression and Violence – Daughters of Charity Service. The general procedure for dealing with misbehaviour was revised on 12th June 2007 (Staff Meeting).

Revision of this policy took place during 2010/2011 and again in November 2016 where the Sanctions Policy was incorporated. It was presented to the Board at a meeting held on 22nd February 2017.

It will be reviewed thereafter every 2 years or in line with legislation or when the need arises.