

Code of Behaviour/Discipline Policy

1. INTRODUCTION:

Under section 23 of the Education Act 2000, the Board of Management of Le Chéile School is required to prepare and make available a code of behaviour for its students. This policy statement has been formulated through consultation between parents, principal, teachers and Board of Management. It has been devised with reference to 'Developing a Code of Behaviour Guidelines for Schools' (NEWB 2008).

The children bring to school a wide variety of behaviour. As a community environment, in school, we must work towards standards of behaviour based on the principles of honesty, respect, consideration and responsibility. It follows that acceptable standards of behaviour are those that reflect these principles.

The basic principles that underpin Le Chéile National School's Code of Behaviour include:

- Creation of a climate that encourages and reinforces good behaviour
- Creation a positive and safe environment for teaching and learning
- Encouraging students to take personal responsibility for their learning and their behaviour;
- Helping young people to mature into responsible participating citizens
- Building positive relationships of mutual respect and mutual support among students, staff and parents
- Ensuring that the school's high expectations for the behaviour of all the members of the school community are widely known and understood

In Le Chéile NS we expect and encourage standards of behaviour which reflect values such as:-

- Respect for self, others and property
- Kindness and willingness to help others
- Courtesy and good manners
- Readiness to use respectful ways of resolving difficulties and conflict

2. AIMS

The aim of this Code of Behaviour, Discipline and Conduct is:

- To ensure the right of each child to education in a safe and relatively disruption-free environment
- To ensure that all children should share an understanding of the high standards of behaviour, which is expected within the school environment.
- In Le Chéile National School we wish to develop in the child qualities of independence, self-reliance, tolerance, and self-discipline. It is our ideal that every child should have a strong sense of responsibility. We would like to see each child taking responsibility for his/her own actions and being aware of how

Homework

Homework is considered an important element of the school and is usually set each

day, Monday to Thursday. It is carefully planned and prepared and is generally a continuation of a lesson already taught – although sometimes it may take the form of some research or study. Failure to comply with homework instructions may impede progress. The interest, support and participation of parents/guardians will be to the child's benefit. Parents /guardians are expected to sign children's Homework Diaries each night.

Outings / School Tours.

The same standards and rules apply to pupils when outside the school, but under the responsibility of the school ie. School tours, games, extra-curricular activities or events organised by the school.

Cf. School policy on School Tours.

5. UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

Three levels of misbehaviour are recognised: Minor, Serious and Gross.

All everyday instances of a minor nature are dealt with by the class teacher. The degree of misbehaviour will be judged by the teachers and/or principal based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity/frequency of such misdemeanours. In cases of repeated serious misbehaviour or single instances of gross misbehaviour, parents will be involved at an early stage and invited to meet the teacher and/or the Principal/ deputy principal to discuss their child's behaviour.

Yellow Card Behaviours:

The following are examples of Minor misbehaviour and will warrant 1 day detention, if not heeded after warning:

- Distracting or annoying others
- Any acts aimed at disrupting the learning environment for the teacher and other pupils
- Careless about schoolwork and/or homework

- Pushing in line
- Spoiling other people's games
- Carelessness or unsafe movement on stairs and in corridors
- Name calling
- Passing unkind comments about others
- Taking other people's things without asking
- Leaving seat without permission
- Shouting out and not using quiet hand
- Answering back
- Wearing jewellery –other than small stud earrings and watches
- Bringing fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolate, crisps to school

Red Card Behaviours: These will result in 3 days detention.

Examples of Serious misbehaviour include:

- Swearing at pupils or staff
- Fighting
- Deliberately causing injury or attempted injury to other children in the school or in the school yard
- Bullying(see school policy on bullying)
- Any acts that endanger the health and safety of the pupils and staff
- Abusing school property or the property of others
- Passing hurtful comments about someone's looks or their family
- Disobedience
- Answering back aggressively
- Leaving classroom without permission
- Leaving playground without permission
- Chewing gum
- Using mobile phones
- Misbehaving when on school trips or outings.
- Being disrespectful to school visitors

Black Card Behaviours: Examples of Gross misbehaviour which will result in suspension:

- Physical aggression towards pupils or staff
- Leaving school grounds without permission
- Racist bullying or name calling
- Cyber bullying

6. SANTIIONS

Sanctions are a valuable and effective means of helping children to reach a high level of self discipline. They teach the child that his/her actions have consequences and that when they behave in an unacceptable way they must accept responsibility for their behaviour by living with the consequences. It must be emphasised that when

sanctions are being imposed it is the behaviour of the child that is being rejected and not the child.

The following are examples of the strategies which will be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour :

- Reasoning with the child
- Reprimand and advice on how to improve
- Temporary separation from peers, friends
- Loss of privileges
- Time out during break
- Detention during break
- Prescribing additional work (transcription etc)
- Liaison with parent, HSCL
- Communication with parents/guardians
- Referral to principal

Sanctions for serious breaches of discipline

- Continuous minor breaches of discipline will be recorded and if there is no improvement, the parents/guardians will be notified by way of a note, posted home
- Three yellow cards will result in a phone call home.
- Two incidents of serious misbehaviour (two red cards)will result in the parents/ guardians being asked to come and meet with school personnel.

Suspension

Suspension as a penalty will be used in cases of very serious or gross irresponsible behaviour. It will only be used when all other penalties have been exhausted and where the irresponsible behaviour persists.

For gross misbehaviour suspension will be considered in accordance with the terms of Rule 130 (5) of the Rules for National Schools, eg. aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour.

In all cases of suspension, the Board of Management will follow the procedures laid down in “Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for Schools.” NEWB, pgs. 74/75.

A suspension may be removed if the Board of Management decides to do so. The period of suspension will end on the date given in the letter of notification to the parents/ guardians about the suspension. The school will support the re-integration of the pupil in line with the NEWB Guidelines pg77-78.

Expulsion

Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case. A pupil is expelled from school when the Board of management makes a decision to permanently exclude him/her from the school , having complied with and followed the procedures and provisions of section24 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000. Where a pupil is suspended or expelled for six days or more, the Board will notify the Education welfare Officer in writing. In all cases requiring expulsion, the Board of Management will follow

procedures laid down in “ Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for Schools” NEWB, pgs. 83 -86.

7. CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

All children are required to comply with the code of behaviour. However, the school recognises that children with special needs may require assistance in understanding certain rules. Specialised behaviour plans will be put in place in consultation with parents/ guardians, class teacher , learning support/ resource teacher and utilising professional advice from psychologists’ reports if existing. The principal and school staff will work closely with home to ensure that optimal support is given.

8. WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH

The overall principle of our code of discipline is to focus attention on positive behaviours. We recognise the importance of early intervention and follow the Dina in the Classroom programme from junior infants through to second class. We hope to follow the Friends for Life programme from Third through to sixth class.

9. REWARDS

Every effort is made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to behaviour in school. The acknowledgement and rewarding of correct behaviour reinforces that behaviour and is the most effective means of demonstrating to the child how he/she should behave in school. Therefore positive techniques of motivation and encouragement are utilised by principal and teachers. Children who are behaving well, who are contributing constructively to the life of the school, and whose work is good or is showing signs of improvement will be acknowledged and rewarded as appropriate.

Such rewards may include:

- Verbal acknowledgement including praise and encouragement.
- Choice of activity
- Points and star system
- Homework off occasionally
- Communication with parents. This might include a call to inform parent of pupil’s good behaviour or improvement. Every effort is made to communicate good news to the parents, (e.g. in the yard, meetings, school events). The emphasis is on positive behaviour strategies
- Written acknowledgement on child’s work
- Principal informed
- Special awards at assemblies
- Star of the week
- Attendance/on time/friendship awards

10. COMMUNICATION.

The school will provide parents/ guardians with a copy of the Code of Behaviour before enrolment of the child as a pupil in the school. Under the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, the principal may, as a condition of registration, ask the parents to confirm in writing that the code is acceptable to them and that they will make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with the code by their child. The code will also be available on the school's website : www.lecheilens.ie.

Ratification and Review

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management and will be reviewed every two years.

Signed: _____
Chairperson Board of Management

Date: _____