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Gurraneasig N.S.

Kilbrittain,

Co. Cork

P72 YP78

Code of Behaviour Policy

Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí

Vision

Our vision, as a staff and Board of Management of Gurraneasig N.S., is to provide a school where all children, whatever their ability, race, or creed are cherished equally for their uniqueness.

The emphasis in Gurraneasig N.S. is, and always has been, to promote positivity. Our school has always promoted a welcoming atmosphere towards parents which encourages them to become involved in aspects of school activities. This leads to a high level of cooperation among teachers, ancillary staff, pupils, parents, Board of Management and the Parents' Association.

The Aims of the Code of Behaviour

- To provide a happy, secure environment for all our pupils.
- 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 facilitate the education and development of every child.
- To foster caring attitudes to one another and to the environment.
- That there is a sense of good order, effective teaching and an agreed approach to behaviour.

Implementation

In maintaining a happy, secure environment, in which children can develop to their full potential, it is necessary to provide a framework, which promotes constructive behaviour and discourages unacceptable behaviour.

Every member of the school community has a role to play in the implementation of the Code of Behaviour. Rules will 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. **Good behaviour is praised and rewarded. Unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated.**

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 School Rules

- **Respect and Courtesy:**

All pupils, parents, staff and visitors are expected to treat staff, their fellow pupils and visitors with respect and courtesy at all times. Any inappropriate behaviour or any form of bullying is unacceptable.

- **Punctuality:**

The official start time is 9:30am for all classes. Classes for Infants end at 2:10 pm. Classes for other pupils end at 3pm. No responsibility is accepted for pupils outside of these times. Pupils who cycle to school are asked to alight from bicycles at the school gate and park in the bicycle rack provided.

- **Absences:**

Every absence of a child must be accounted for by forwarding a note (email or written) to the teacher, giving the reason for the absence on the return of the child to school. If a child has to leave school early a written note or email must be forwarded to the teacher. Absences of 20 days or more must be reported to the National Education Welfare Board by the school, in accordance with the Education Act 2000. Gurraneasig N.S. will notify parents/guardians in writing when their child has reached 15 days cumulative absence since the start of the year.

- **Illness:**

Any infectious illness should be notified to the school immediately.

- **Personal Appearance/Hygiene:**

School uniforms must be worn at all times unless otherwise informed by the school. A high standard of hygiene is expected at all times.

- **Personal Property:**

Children should have their names on their school jumpers, coats and other personal property such as school books, copies, bag, lunchbox etc.

- **Mobile Phones:**

Mobile phones are not allowed in school. If a child needs to make urgent contact with their parents the school's secretary or a staff member will do so.

- **School Property, and the school environment:**

Pupils must respect all school property and keep it a clean and litter free environment.

- **Behaviour:**

Pupils must have all books and required materials.

Pupils are expected to work to the best of their ability and to present written work neatly.

Pupils are to show respect for the class teacher, staff and their classmates.

Any behaviour that interferes with the rights of others is unacceptable.

Pupils must not behave in any way which endangers themselves or others. If children behave in a violent or aggressive manner, parents will be asked to attend the school immediately by the principal and remove their child for the remainder of the school day.

Any instructions given by supervising teacher or SNAs are to be complied with.

Children must line up in an orderly manner at the end of the break.

Chewing Gum is not allowed.

****Any form of bullying is unacceptable. Please refer to Anti-bullying policy***

- **Homework**

Parents are strongly encouraged to take an active interest in their child's homework. Homework is an extension of schoolwork, and should be done thoroughly and neatly.

- **Meetings**

Parents/Guardians who wish to meet the Principal or teachers should request in writing or email to make a prior appointment with at least 24 hours' notice. This is to ensure one to one communication and that class time for children is not interrupted.

Classroom Rules

- Listen to the teacher and do what the teacher says.
- Listen to others when they are speaking and they in turn will listen to you.
- Work to the best of ability and present exercises neatly.
- Stay seated in their places unless told otherwise. This is particularly important when teacher is called from the room.
- Don't interfere with other pupils or their property.
- Help to keep the classroom tidy
- Use the toilet properly and wash hands afterwards.
- Be kind and helpful and not hurt other people's feelings.

Corridor Rules

- Do not run. Walk quietly and briskly if you need to hurry.
- Open the door for a teacher or visitors.

Yard Rules

- Play safely at all times. Anti-social, dangerous or hurtful behaviour is forbidden, (e.g. wrestling, bullying, teasing, jeering, fighting, spitting, kicking, bad language, exclusion etc.).
- Let others join in the game if they ask. (If you see someone all alone, invite him/her to join along in your game)
- If someone gets hurt or has a problem, go to the teacher who is on yard duty, not to the Staff Room.
- Walk to and from the yard.
- Stand sideways to let a teacher or adult pass.
- Do not go back into school during lunch time unless you get permission from the teacher on yard duty.
- Stay visible to an adult on duty at all times.
- When you hear the bell, stop playing, tidy away equipment after you and walk to your class line.
- Wait quietly in your line for your teacher to come.
- **At going home time - Pupils should walk to the school gate and remain standing there until parents/guardians come to collect.**

Bullying

Bullying is repeated verbal, psychological or physical aggression by an individual or group against others. The most common forms of bullying are aggressive physical contact, name-calling, intimidation, extortion, isolation and taunting. Bullying will not be tolerated and parents will be expected to cooperate with the school at all times in dealing with instances of bullying in accordance with the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.

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.

Strategies/Incentives

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval or praise.
- A comment on a child's exercise book.
- A visit to another class or Principal for commendation.
- Praise in front of a class group.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- Written or verbal communication with parent.
- Stamps and Stickers
- Golden Time

- Homework Pass

Discouraging Misbehaviour

The purpose of sanctions and other strategies is to 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.
- Temporary separation from peers within class and/or temporary removal to another class or halla.
- Prescribing extra work/redoing work.
- If a pupil's behaviour is a source of danger/disruption to themselves or others the individual may be removed from the activity in which they are involved e.g. P.E, Visual Arts, computer, play etc.
- Loss of privileges.
- Detention during break time where the child poses a threat to themselves or others.
- Communication with parents.
- Referral to Principal.
- Principal/Class Teacher communicating with parents at an early stage.
- 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.

Suspension/Expulsion

Before serious sanctions such as suspension or expulsion are used, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Communication with parents may be verbal or by letter depending on the circumstances.

For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension may be considered. Parents concerned will be contacted 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 child 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 teacher 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 of National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000.

In the case of gross misbehaviour and in accordance with NEWB guidance; where it is necessary to ensure that order and discipline are maintained and to secure the safety of pupils, the Principal may impose an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding three school days, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents. The Principal will notify the Chairperson of the Board of Management of such eventualities. The Local Education Welfare Officer(TUSLA) will be informed in writing when a pupil accumulates 6 days suspension. Expulsion may be considered in extreme cases, in accordance with the Rule for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000. Before expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Local Welfare Education Officer in writing in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act

Reinstatement (removal of Suspension)

Following or during a period of suspension, the parents/guardians may apply to have the pupil reinstated to the school. The parents/Guardians 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 pupils reinstatement will not constitute a risk to the pupil's own safety or that of the other pupils or staff. The Principal and class teacher will facilitate the preparation of a behaviour plan for the pupil if required and will re-admit the pupil formally to the class.

With regard to the Suspension/Expulsion, these are the key elements and were drawn up in accordance with National Education Welfare Board guidelines, i.e. 'Developing a Code of Behaviour' A full copy of which is available to view in the school

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 written record of instances of serious misbehaviour or repeated instances of misbehaviour.
- Provide support for colleagues.
- Communicate with Principal and parents when necessary and provide reports on matters of mutual concern.
- Report to the Principal where necessary.

SNA Responsibilities:

- To ensure the children in their care are in a safe and secure environment
- To inform teacher of any concerns/report misbehaviour
- Recognise and affirm good behaviour, progress effort
- Provide support for colleagues

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.
- Walk while in the school building.
- Respect all school property.
- Respect the property of other pupils.
- Avoid behaving in any way which would endanger others.
- Avoid all nasty remarks, swearing and name-calling.
- Include other pupils in games and activities.
- Bring correct materials/books to school.
- Follow school and class rules.
- Complete class and homework as assigned by teacher.

Parents/Guardians' Responsibilities

- Ensure that your child(ren) attend school regularly and punctually.
- Provide written or email documentation for absences early withdrawal from school.
- Ensure your child(ren) are collected promptly at home time. The Board of Management and the school staff are **not** responsible for persons/children on the school premises outside of school official hours.
- Be familiar with the Code of Behaviour and support its implementation.
- Communicate promptly with the school in relation to any problems/issues in or outside of school which may impact on your affect child's progress/behaviour at school.
- Cooperate with and support the teacher/school as much as possible to ensure your child behaves in accordance with school's expectations.
- Cooperate with teachers in instances where your child's behaviour is causing difficulties for others.
- Contact the class teacher firstly and open a dialogue if you have a concern regarding your child and something that happened at school.
- Make an appointment to meet with teachers/principal via the school office.
- Support and encourage your child's school work.
- Encourage children to have a sense of respect for themselves and for school property.
- Be courteous with other pupils and staff.

Parents are requested not to approach or reprimand another person's child on the school premises.

- Equip your children with appropriate school materials, a sufficient healthy lunch and full uniform.
- Label pupils' clothes and other personal property
- Respect the classrooms and staffroom as workplaces and seek permission from the teacher before entering.
- Strictly supervise pre-school children when they are in the school.
- Drive carefully and slowly on the approach roads to school

This policy on Code of Behaviour was formulated by the staff of Gurraneasig N.S. following consultation with the Parents Association, Student Council and the Board of Management.

Ratified by Board of Management

Signed Mary O'Sullivan
Chairperson, Board of Management

28/3/2023
Date

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Gurraneasig NS – Code of Behaviour – Parental Consent:

I, _____, Parent of _____

agree to support the school in the implementation of this Policy to ensure the safety and privacy of all Pupils and Teachers in the school.

Signed: _____

Date: _____