

## Code of Behaviour

Good behaviour is based on good relations between parents/guardians, child and school.

In Gaelscoil an Bhradáin Feasa, we hope to foster this ideal in co-operation with our parents/guardians. We have adopted a positive code of behaviour with emphasis on encouragement and reward so that good behaviour can prevail in our school.

The Board of Management of the school has ultimate responsibility for behaviour in the school. Within the school, the overall day to day responsibility for behaviour rests with the Principal. Each teacher has the responsibility for the maintenance of good behaviour and good order within his/her classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good behaviour within the school premises.

Parents/guardians can support the school by encouraging their children to understand the need for school rules, and by communicating any relevant concerns to the school.

### Aims of the code

- To create a positive learning environment that encourages and reinforces good behaviour
- To promote self-esteem and positive relationships
- To encourage consistency of response to both positive and negative behaviour
- To foster a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in pupils and to support good behaviour patterns based on consideration and respect for the rights of others
- To facilitate the education and development of every child
- To foster caring attitudes to one another and to the environment
- To enable teachers to teach without disruption
- To ensure that the school's expectations and strategies are widely known and understood through the availability of policies and an ethos of open communication
- To encourage the involvement of both home and school in the implementation of this policy

### Responsibility of Adults

The adults encountered by the children at school have an important responsibility to model high standards of behaviour, both in their dealings with the children and with each other, as their example has an important influence on the children.

As adults we should aim to:

- Create a positive climate with realistic expectations.
- Promote positive behaviour, through example, honesty and courtesy.
- Provide a caring and effective learning environment.
- Encourage relationships based on kindness, respect and understanding of the needs of others.
- Ensure fair treatment for all regardless of age, gender, race, ability and disability.
- Show appreciation of the efforts and contribution of all.

- To discourage physical aggression and encourage **'Kind Hands, Kind Words, Kind Feet'**.

A Code of Conduct for staff, pupils and volunteers ensures that the rights of all are upheld.

Caighdeáin lena bhfuilimid ag súil sa scoil:

1. Léirímid meas agus cineáltas dúinn féin, daoine eile, giúrléidí agus do thimpeallacht na scoile.
2. Sí an Ghaeilge teanga na scoile agus labhraimid í i gcónaí sa scoil, i dtimpeallacht na scoile agus ag imeachtaí a bhaineann leis an scoil.
3. Bímid ullamh don scoil gach lá.
4. Leanaimid treoracha na foirne scoile gan mhoill.
5. Déanaimid ár ndícheall ar scoil.

Rialacha ranga

At the beginning of each academic year, the class teacher will draft a list of class rules with the children, based closely on the "caighdeáin" above. Rules will be applied in a fair and consistent manner, with due regard to the age of the pupils and to individual difference. Class teachers will have regard for the following guidelines when writing class rules.

Beidh na rialacha:

1. Laghdaithe go dtí an méid is lú
2. Scríofa i dteanga shimplí
3. Ráite go dearfach
4. Bunaithe ar réasúnaíocht shoiléir
5. Forbartha trí chomhairliú le mic léin,
6. Curtha in iúl agus tagairt déanta dóibh go minic

Incentives/Reward System

Part of the vision of **Gaelscoil an Bhradáin Feasa** is to help children achieve their personal best and thus prepare them for further education, life and work. We recognise that there are many different forms of intelligence and similarly that children use a variety of approaches to solve problems. Our reward systems seeks to provide encouragement to all children of all abilities and talents. Children will be encouraged, praised and listened to by adults in the school. Praise is earned by the maintenance of good standards as well as by particularly noteworthy personal achievements.

The following are some samples of how praise might be given:

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval
- A comment in a pupil's copy
- A visit to another member of Staff or to the Principal for commendation
- A word of praise in front of a group or class
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege
- A mention to parent, written or verbal communication
- A "pointe dojo" or other individual or group reward.
- 'Bualadh Bos' in class or special mention at assembly.
- Cartaí Gaeilge/ cártaí moltaí ón bPríomhoide.
- Leabhar órga na scoile a shíniú leis an bpríomhoide
- Taispeántas ar an mballa

- Teastaisí Scoile

## Unacceptable Behaviour

All everyday instances of a minor nature are dealt with by the class teacher, or the supervising teacher at break-times. In cases of repeated misbehaviour or single instances of gross misbehaviour parents will be contacted by letter or phone. A problem-solving approach will be taken when seeking to resolve to a pupil's continuous inappropriate behaviour.

Bullying is repeated aggression – physical, verbal or emotional - conducted by an individual or group against another or others.

- PHYSICAL: includes pushing, shoving, punching, kicking, poking, tripping, etc.
- VERBAL: name calling which hurts, insults or humiliates.
- EMOTIONAL: threats or persistent hurtful remarks regarding sensitive areas e.g. appearance, dress, progress, colour, culture and disability. Isolating or shunning a child. Threats to extort money or possessions. "Cyber/text" bullying.

The school takes particular care to intervene early in responding to the needs, fears or anxieties of individual members in a sensitive manner. Issues in relation to Bullying are explored continually during SPHE lessons and using Circle Time, Drama etc.

Should a parent/guardian have any concerns which need to be discussed with a teacher, all staff members are more than willing to facilitate a meeting, made through the proper channels i.e. an email to the class teacher to arrange a convenient time for both parties. The first person to be informed should be the class teacher. This arrangement ensures that all concerns are dealt with in a dignified, meaningful manner, without infringing on valuable teaching time. Isolated incidents of aggressive behaviour, while not to be condoned, cannot be described as bullying.

Incidents of bullying will be dealt with in line with the school's antibullying policy.

## Sanctions

The following sanctions have been agreed upon amongst school staff and staff will bear in mind the circumstances involved when applying sanctions. The aim of any sanction is to prevent the behaviour occurring again and if necessary to help the pupil devise strategies for this.

- Focal/comhrá leis an dalta
- Pointe dojo a chailliúint
- Bogadh go rang/bord/cathaoir eile
- Cuairt ó bhaill foirne eile
- Am órga a chailliúint
- Ainm ar an gclár bán
- Leithscéal a ghabháil ó bhéal nó i scríbhinn
- Ceist a chur ar an dalta gníomh éigin a dhéanamh chun cúiteamh a dhéanamh
- Dalta a bhaint ón rang go sealadach
- Obair sa bhreis
- Teagmháil le tuistí
- Pribhléidí a bhaint
- Tasc úsáideach sa scoil a thabhairt don dalta (aonarach)
- Siúl leis an múinteoir ag am lóin
- Tuairisc chuig an BB
- Cuairt ón bPríomhoide nó chuig Oifig an Phríomhoide
- Foláireamh ó bhéal go leanfaidh smachtbhanna muna athraíonn iompar an pháiste
- Dalta a bhaint as grúpa/ ceacht nó as piarghrúpa ar leith
- Fionraí
- 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)

## Suspension and Expulsion

Before serious sanctions such as detention, 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 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 authorises the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding three school days.

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 Education Welfare 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.

### 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 may be put in place in consultation with parents and the class teacher, learning support/ resource teacher, and or principal will work closely with home to ensure that optimal support is given. Cognitive development will be taken into account at all times. Professional advice from outside agencies may be sought and active teaching of relevant skills will be made a priority as deemed necessary.

The children in the class or school may also be taught strategies to assist a pupil with special needs adhere to the rules and thus provide peer support. This will be done in a supportive and safe way, acknowledging and respecting the difference in all individuals.

### Communicating with Parents

Communicating with parents is central to maintaining a positive approach to dealing with children. Parents and teachers should develop a joint strategy to address specific difficulties, in addition to sharing a broader philosophy which can be implemented at home and in school.

A high level of co-operation and open communication is seen as an important factor encouraging positive behaviour in the school. Structures and channels designed to maintain a high level of communication among staff and between staff, pupils and parents have been established and are being reviewed regularly.

Parents are encouraged to talk in confidence to teachers about any significant developments in a child's life (in the past or present), which may affect the child's behaviour.

The following methods of communication are to be used within the school:

- Parent and teacher meetings.
- Letters/notes from school to home and from home to school
- E-mail for the attention of teacher via [runai@gaelscoilanbhradainfeasa.com](mailto:runai@gaelscoilanbhradainfeasa.com)
- TextaParent service.
- Aladdin

This Code of Behaviour was adopted by the Board of Management on 25/9/2023.