Our attitudes and perceptions impact our actions and conduct.
Code of Behaviour Policy
Scoil an Linbh Íosa, Ballycane, Naas

The aims of the Code of Behaviour of Scoil an Linbh Íosa are:

- To provide guidance for pupils, teachers and parents on behavioural expectations.
- To provide for the effective and safe operation of the school.
- 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.
- To enable teachers to teach without disruption.

Implementation

Every member of the school community has a role to play in the implementation of the Code of Behaviour. Rules will be kept to a minimum, 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.

General Guidelines for Positive Behaviour

1. Pupils are expected to always treat all adults and fellow pupils with respect and courtesy. Behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to feel safe is unacceptable.
2. Pupils are expected to show respect for all school property and to keep the school environment clean and litter free.
3. Pupils are expected to take pride in their appearance, to have all books and required materials and to be in the right place at the right time.
4. Pupils are expected to obey a teacher's instructions, to work to the best of their ability and to present assignments neatly.
5. Pupils are expected to attend every day unless there is a genuine reason for absence, in which case the school must be informed in writing, stating the reason for absence.

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.

Rules Relating to School Uniform

- Full uniform must be always worn in school and when representing the school.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that their son/daughter is in full uniform each day at school.
- Pupils who have a genuine reason for being out of uniform should have a note from his/her parent/guardian submitted on the school app before 9.10am
- The wearing of facial jewellery is not permitted. Stud earrings only should be worn. This is for health and safety reasons.
- Students are not permitted to wear make-up in school.
- During periods of warm weather , the students are permitted to wear shorts - the shorts must be chino style or the loose short tracksuit style. Other colours and styles are not permitted.

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 sanction.

Strategies/Incentives

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment on a child's exercise book.
- A visit to another class or Principal for commendation.
- Praise in front of class group.
- Individual class merit awards, points awards or award stamps.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- Written or verbal communication with parent.

At the end of each day, any child who has not received a warning or a red or yellow card will receive a raffle ticket. At the end of the week, a draw will take place for a sticker (Junior and Senior Infants) or a Homework Pass (1st - 6th).

Sanctions for Classroom Misbehaviour

The school strives to solve issues at the lowest level possible. Teachers encourage, support and show pupils how they may be able to resolve issues themselves. Most issues will be resolved at this point. Where sanctions are imposed they will be graded and reflect the seriousness of the behaviour.

Yellow and Red Cards

The school operates a yellow and red card warning system.

- Yellow cards are given for serious/disruptive misbehaviours.
- Red cards are given for very serious misbehaviours.
- All warning cards are sent home to be signed by parents/guardians.
- Yellow or red cards may be given for a single incident of misbehaviour.

Immediate Yellow Cards given for:

- Name calling
- Throwing an object
- Not wearing the correct school uniform and where no explanation has been given from the parent/guardian
- Wearing make-up to school
- Writing/graffiti on school property
- Threatening someone
- Defiance or verbal disrespect
- Fighting/hurting someone
- Bad or abusive language or gestures
- Use of a mobile phone during school hours (1st and 2nd offences)
- Chewing gum

Immediate Red Cards given for:

- Unprovoked physical violence
- Leaving school grounds without permission
- Use of obscene/ abusive language to a member of staff
- Gross defiance/ deliberate failure to obey a staff instruction during an aggressive or violent incident
- Racist or homophobic remarks
- Planning/encouraging a fight
- Any behaviour that puts the health and safety of others at risk
- Banned substances
- Theft
- Use of a mobile phone during school hours (3rd and subsequent offences)

Dealing with minor issues

Where issues occur teachers may employ any of a number of strategies to respond to, or to divert children's inappropriate behaviour in order to prevent it escalating into something more disruptive to learning and more difficult to manage.

Dealing with more serious issues

When behaviour issues arise that require a sanction either because of the level of disruption, upset or hurt caused or the persistence of the disruption the following sanctions will be used in a graded system to show disapproval and to discourage such unacceptable behaviour. The student may be asked to record their version of what happened.

1. Verbal warning - the teacher will indicate the behaviour and rule broken
2. Warning 1 - reflection sheet to be completed by pupil. It is brought home to be completed and signed by parents/guardians and returned the next day.
3. Warning 2 - Discipline sheet completed. It is brought home to be completed and signed by parents/guardians and returned the next day.

4. Yellow Card - card to brought home to be signed by parents/guardians and returned the next day.

Where a pupil receives 2 yellow cards in a 5 day period a phone call will also be made to parents/guardians by the class teacher.

5. Red Card - where a pupil gets 3 yellow cards in any 5 day period the pupil is sent to the Principal/Deputy Principal and gets a red card. Sanctions to include detention, loss of privileges (not a curricular area except for health and safety reasons), walk with teacher in the yard for a minimum of 2 days or sit out at yard time and if necessary, a behaviour contract drawn up

Suspension/Expulsion

Before serious sanctions such as detention, suspension or expulsion are used, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Where it is proposed to detain a pupil after school hours, the parents or guardians will be notified. 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 may authorize the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding three school days, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents.

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 Local Welfare Education 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.

School Trips and Outings

Pupil's behaviour on tours will comply with the standard set down in the school's code of behaviour. Where it is felt that a child's conduct would pose a safety risk or inhibit the educational benefit for themselves or others, the school management reserves the right to refuse the child permission to travel on school trips/tours and outings. Parents/guardians will be advised of this in advance.

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.

Before/After School

Parents are reminded that the staff of the school does not accept responsibility for pupils before official opening time of 8.50a.m. or after the official closing time of 1.30p.m. (Infants) 2.30p.m. (other classes), except where pupils are engaged in an extra-curricular activity organized by the school and approved by the Board of Management. Pupils involved in such activities are expected to behave in accordance with the school behaviour policy during these times.

Board of Management's Responsibility

- 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 reviews 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 schoolwork 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 record of instances of serious misbehaviour or repeated instances of misbehaviour.
- Provide support for colleagues.
- Communicate with parents when necessary and provide reports on matters of mutual concern.

SNA and Ancillary Staff Responsibilities

- Support and implement the school's code of behaviour.
- Create a safe working environment for each pupil.
- Recognise and affirm good work.
- Be courteous, consistent and fair.
- Keep opportunities for disruptive behaviour to a minimum.
- Provide support for colleagues.
- Report incidences of misbehaviour to teachers as necessary

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.
- Respect all school property and 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.

Parents/Guardians' Responsibilities

Encourage children to have a sense of respect for themselves and for property.

- Ensure that children attend regularly and punctually.
- Be interested in, support and encourage their children's schoolwork.
- Be familiar with the code of behaviour and support its implementation.
- Cooperate with teachers in instances where their child's behaviour is causing difficulties for others.
- Communicate with the school in relation to any problems which may affect a child's progress/behaviour.

Appendix to Behaviour Policy

Sample Rules

Classroom

Instructions given by teacher must be obeyed. (Do what the teacher says.)

Pupils should work to the best of their ability and present exercises neatly. (Work hard.)

Pupils must stay seated in their places unless told otherwise. This is particularly important when teacher is called from the room. (Sit in your place.)

Pupils should keep unhelpful hands, feet, objects and comments to themselves. (Don't interrupt the teacher or interfere with other pupils or their property.)

Rules around the School (samples)

Pupils must walk quietly in corridors, going to and from yard, hall, church etc.

Pupils must always play safely. Anti-social, dangerous or hurtful behaviour is forbidden, (e.g., wrestling, headlocks, jockey backs, bullying, intimidation, teasing, jeering, fighting, spitting, kicking, charging in groups, bad language, exclusion).

Pupils should walk to gates at going home time.

Signed: _____ Date: 26/9/23
(Chairperson Board of Management)

Signed: Karol Hobbins (D.P.) Date: 26/9/23
(Principal)