

Villierstown NS

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**Code of Behaviour and Discipline**

In devising the code, the B.O.M. has referred to ‘Developing a Code of Behaviour, Guidelines for Schools. National Education Welfare Board May 2008’. Consideration has been given by the B.O.M. to the particular needs and circumstances of this school.

The code aims:

* To create a framework within which initiative, responsibility and good relationships may develop.
* To enable pupils develop a sense of self-esteem, self-respect and respect for others.
* To create an environment in which pupils and staff feel safe, secure and respected.
* To develop a learning environment where a quality education can be provided for all students.
* To develop an environment that nurtures a holistic view of education.

Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school. The code offers a framework within which positive techniques of motivation and encouragement are utilised by the teachers. (Appendix 2 Practical tips for building a positive school culture and climate)

The school places greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions, in the belief that this will, in the long run, give the best results, e.g. Praise/stickers/ Golden Time/ local press etc.

The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences.

It is agreed that a high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school and a high level of co-operation among staff, pupils and parents.

All efforts will be made to match the curriculum to the abilities, aptitudes and interests of each pupil.

The rules are positively stated in terms of what pupils should do.

The standards enshrined in the Code of Behaviour and Discipline will expect all members of the school community to behave in ways that show respect for others.

The Red Rule: Safety

My Right; When I came to school I have the right to feel safe.

My responsibility; When I am in school it is my responsibility not to hurt or harm anyone.

**I will;**

Play in a safe manner and remain on the school grounds.

Follow all guidelines on handwashing, respiratory etiquette and social distancing.

Walk my bicycle/scooter in and out of the school grounds.

The Green Rule: Learning

My Right; When I am in school I have the right to learn and grow to become my best self.

My responsibility; When I am in school I have the responsibility to do my very best to listen and to learn. When I am in school it is my responsibility to make sure that I am not stopping anyone else from listening and learning

**I will;**

Attend school regularly and not miss days without good reason.

Participate in school activities.

Arrive on time – 9.15 a.m. and have all the necessary materials.

Do my homework carefully and completely.

Avoid distracting behaviour.

Move quietly around the school and avoid causing disturbance

Yellow Rule: Communication

My Right; When I am in school I have the right to speak and to be listened to.

My responsibility; When I am in school I have the responsibility to listen to others when they speak.

I will

Listen to instructions given and do as requested.

Speak to classmates with courtesy and respect and allow them to be part of the group.

The Blue Rule; Respect

My Right; When I am in school I have the right to be respected and my belongings respected.

My Responsibility When I am in school it is my responsibility to be respectful to other people and their belongings

I will

Be kind and respect the differing personalities of my classmates and others.

Keep the school tidy and litter-free.

Ensure that bicycles are securely locked when left on the school premises

Be fully responsible for my own personal property in the school.

Respect all school property.

Wear the school uniform, consisting of maroon V-necked jumper or cardigan, maroon tie, grey shirt/polo-shirt, grey slacks/skirt/pinafore, grey socks/ tights (to be worn with skirt/pinafore) and black shoes.

**Expectations of Parents**:

The school expects that you will:

* Follow all guidelines on handwashing, respiratory etiquette and social distancing.
* Notify the school when your child is sick and fill the relevant form for their return to school after illness.
* Be familiar with the various policies and codes of the school.
* Show support for teachers in their implementation of the schools behaviour policy.
* Support your child in their schoolwork.
* Ensure the punctuality and regular attendance of your child.
* If your child is absent from or late for class (full-day or half-day) give a written explanation to the class teacher.
* Ensure he/she has the necessary materials.
* Ensure your child has a positive attitude to and abides by the school and class rules.
* Never undermine the authority of the school or teachers.
* Promote respect for teachers and other school personnel.
* Give a contact number where you can be reached in an emergency.
* Be available to discuss a problem – Principal and class teacher to be seen by appointment.
* Support the school in implementing its code of behaviour.
* Exert firm discipline in cases where your child’s behaviour is having a negative impact on others.
* Impress upon your child the importance of not leaving the school building/playground without permission. It is not always possible to inform parents that this may have happened due to failure to answer phone or non-update of your contact number. In the event of this happening local Garda Station to be contacted where possible. Written permission must be given to the class teacher if you wish your child to leave the school premises at any time.
* Be aware that the school day is from 9.20a.m. – 2.00p.m. for Infants and 9.20a.m. – 3.00p.m. 1st- 6th Class. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before 9.10 a.m. or remaining after 2p.m./3p.m. unless authorised to do so by the school.
* Inform the school/class teacher if your child is suffering from any illness or taking medication which may affect his well-being or performance in school.
* Avail of the school personal accident insurance scheme.
* All parents/visitors on entering the school will first report to the reception/office. Please do not disturb class teachers.
* Be aware that pupils absent from school for 20 days or more will be notified to Educational Welfare Board as is its legal requirement. In line with the school’s internal tracking system of absences of a significant length parents/guardians will be notified in writing when their child is absent at 15 days and 30 days.
* Be aware the B.O.M. had adopted ‘Children First’ the National Guidelines for Child Protection as school policy.
* Be aware that school/staff strives to encourage/support/affirm/include/be fair/provide safe and happy environment for children of all abilities/origin.

The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the principal. 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. A pupil will be referred to the Principal for very serious negative behaviour and for repeated instances of minor negative behaviour.

Examples of very serious negative behaviour:

* Continued and deliberate non compliance with guidelines on handwashing, respiratory etiquette and social distancing.
* Disrespect for staff / swearing/foul language.
* Acts of deliberate aggression/confrontational behaviour to staff.
* Incidents of serious defiance.
* Theft.
* Threat to safety of himself/herself/others.
* Behaviour that is having/has had a detrimental effect on teaching and learning.
* Behaviour that is hurtful e.g. (bullying, harassment, discrimination and victimisation) towards others.

The following strategies will be used to show disapproval of negative behaviour.

1. Reasoning with the pupil.
2. Reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
3. Extra work.
4. Temporary separation from peers, friends/change places in class.
5. Loss of privileges.
6. Referral to Principal.
7. Communication with parents. Parents will be involved at an early stage to resolve negative behaviour. This will be done by homework journal/telephone/behaviour note from Principal and class teacher. Appointment with Principal and class teacher. Appointment with Principal and behaviour and discipline advisory committee (where possible).
8. Suspension, (see school policy).
9. Immediate suspension on personal abuse of staff.
10. Management have the right to consider a single incident of negative behaviour as being very serious and it may be grounds for suspension.
11. Very negative behaviour that is persistent may require B.O.M. to put a pupil on a reduced curriculum (short day).

Teachers will keep a written record of all instances of serious negative behaviour.

Efforts will be made to have an emotionally disturbed child referred for psychological assessment. Help will be sought where possible from support

services within the school/wider community e.g. education welfare board officer/health board.

In formulating this code, the Principal on behalf of The Board of Management discussed its content with the body representing the parents of the pupils attending the school. All members of the teaching staff have been involved in planning the code.

A copy of this code will be made available to all parents.

Management may add to, or modify this Code of Behaviour and Discipline if necessary. The Code will be kept under review.

Parents be aware that by enrolling your child in Villierstown Primary School you are accepting its Code of Behaviour and Discipline.

Pupil’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardians signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Code of Behaviour and Discipline ratified by the Board of Management:

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: Chairman B.O.M. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: Principal: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_