



CODE OF BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE FOR OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL SCHOOL

(Updated February 2018)

1. In devising the code, consideration had been given to the particular needs and circumstances of this school. The aim is to ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated while acknowledging the right of each child to education in a relatively disruption-free environment.
2. 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 teachers.
3. The school places greater emphasis on positive reinforcement of good behaviour in the belief that this will, in the long run, give the best results.
4. The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
5. 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 and between staff, pupils and parents.
6. Ours is a school for pupils with special needs. The curriculum will be matched to suit the individual needs of each child.
7. The standard of behaviour expected of each pupil attending this school is in accordance with the school rules.
8. The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the Principal Teacher. 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 Teacher for serious breaches of discipline and for repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour.
9. In the case of unacceptable behaviour, teachers shall keep a written record of all instances of serious misbehaviour as well as a record of improvements in the behaviour of disruptive pupils. Before resorting to serious sanctions, e.g. suspension, the normal channels of communication between school and parents

will be utilised. Parents will be involved at an early stage rather than as a last resort.

10. These procedures will be followed if a pupil continues to behave in an unacceptable manner.
 - I. The teacher will contact parents to discuss the problem.
 - II. The Principal will be informed
 - III. Communication with parents will be verbal or by letter, depending on circumstances. The parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case. For serious behavioural problems or repeated instances of same, suspension will be considered. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher/special needs assistant/pupil and staff will be regarded as serious depending on circumstances.
 - IV. Where there are repeated instances of serious behaviour, 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 Teacher. If the serious behavioural problems continue the pupil may have to be suspended for a temporary period. Suspension will be in accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2000. Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with The Education Welfare Act 2000.
11. The Multi-Disciplinary Team attached to the school will be consulted on an ongoing basis in the case of challenging behaviour.
12. The grounds for removing a suspension would be if the support structures recommended by the School Team were put in place. If these support structures were successful in modifying the challenging behaviour the pupil would then be reintegrated into the class on a phased basis.
13. In the belief that the most effective schools tend to be those with the best relationships with parents, every effort will be made by the Principal Teacher and staff to ensure that parents are kept well informed, that the school provides a welcoming atmosphere towards parents and that parents are told not only when their children are in trouble but when they have behaved particularly well.
14. Parents are asked to notify the school in the case of illness or absence.
15. The code will be reviewed periodically.
16. A copy of this code will be made available to all parents and staff.
17. These policies may be added to and revised periodically.

This code was compiled with reference to:

The Education Welfare Act 2000

Management: Board Members Handbook, Revised 2000