



## **Code of Behaviour**

### **DEVELOPMENT OF CODE**

The Code was developed in consultation with the parents, teachers, pupils and the Board of Management and adheres to the National Guidelines issued by the NEWB,

<http://www.newb.ie/>

### **THE PURPOSE OF CODE IS TO:**

- Create a climate that encourages and reinforces good behaviour
- Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour and learning
- Help pupils to mature and to become aware of the need for respect and co-operation in the daily life in the school
- Provide clarity to students, parents and the broader school community on the school rules, appropriate standards of behaviour and the sanctions which will apply in response to negative behaviour

### **PROMOTING A POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE**

**The quality of relationships in the school are central to effective teaching and learning. Each member of the school community has a responsibility to contribute to a positive climate based on mutual respect and fairness. Within the classroom, the pupils annually make a class agreement on good conduct. These rules are complemented by the school rules and code of behaviour. The curriculum also sustains - formally and informally - the positive climate in the school.**

Through the SPHE curriculum we teach the skills the children will need, and we will encourage them to live up to, the school's expectations, e.g. co-operating with each other, listening to each other, showing respect, taking turns, using please and thank you etc. Staff have a common understanding of expectations and a common approach to sanctioning.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

**In Gaelscoil Thiobraid Arann, parents agree to:**

- Ensure children come to school each day on time.
- Send a written explanation if a child is absent from school for any reason.
- Ensure children wear full school uniform and are clean, neat and tidy.



- Ensure children wear appropriate clothing for P.E.
- Label all property and clothing clearly.
- Help children with their homework and sign their homework journal daily.
- Treat school staff, parents and other children with respect, courtesy and polite language.
- Co-operate with school staff and attend meetings when requested.
- Provide a healthy lunch daily for their children.
- Make an appointment, through the secretary, if they wish to meet with a teacher
- Communicate through Irish to the best of their ability.

### **Complaints Procedure**

Every parent has a right to enquire as to the welfare of their child. By the same token, however, every teacher has the right to work in a safe and professional environment. No teacher will entertain any complaints being made on the yard or in the corridor. The complaints procedure is thus:

1. Email class teacher to organise a meeting to discuss the issue at hand.
2. On not gaining any satisfaction, you can then make an appointment to meet the principal.
3. If a parent still feels aggrieved they can arrange to meet the Chairperson of the Board of Management
4. Finally, a complaint can be made in writing to the Board of Management, who will begin internal procedures.

### **In Gaelscoil Thiobraid Arann, we expect the Board of Management will:**

- Work to serve the interests of the school.
- Encourage staff in their efforts to ensure that the highest standards of education are provided to our pupils.
- Encourage and maintain a school culture based on mutual respect, fairness and accountability.
- Promote the ethos of the school as a co-educational, Catholic school and the promotion of the Irish culture.
- Work in partnership with parents to implement policies and the curriculum.

### **In Gaelscoil Thiobraid Arann, we expect staff will:**

- Be punctual.
- Be prepared for class.
- Encourage all children, parents and fellow staff members in their efforts to learn and grow as individuals.
- Treat children, parents and other staff members with respect, courtesy and polite language.





- Co-operate with each other and work as part of a team.
- Be fair and consistent.
- Be aware of their duty of care to all children, at all times.
- Communicate through Irish at all times.
- Respect school equipment and school property.
- Keep all records updated.

**In Gaelscoil Thiobraid Arann we expect children will:**

- Treat staff and other children with respect, courtesy and polite language.
- Be kind to encourage each other.
- Speak Irish to the best of their abilities.
- Be honest in their dealings with others.
- Treat school property and other children's property with respect.
- Listen carefully in class and do their best work.
- Complete homework and present it on time.
- Maintain a high standard of behaviour while on the school premises and while engaging in any school-related activity.
- Abide by class rules.

**Note:**

Behaviour will be subject to the school's code of behaviour anywhere on the School premises, on any out of school activity where the child/children are representing the school (e.g. sport events, cultural events, school tours etc).

**Believing in our Children**

**We believe in encouraging good behaviour**

- Teachers Affirmations
- Children's work is displayed throughout the school.
- Extra responsibilities being granted.
- Night off homework
- Leabhar Órga at assembly
- Trophy and certificate for best Irish speaker during the week
- Visiting classrooms with medals, holiday photographs etc

**Negative standards of behaviour will not be tolerated and include:**

- Behaviour that is disrespectful and hurtful - including bullying, harassment and racism
- Behaviour in the classroom that persistently disrupts the learning of the other students
- Behaviour which threatens the safety of other pupils and teachers
- Behaviour which persistently disregards the school rules
- Malicious damage to school property



- Bringing drugs or other illegal substances, and weapons into the school premises

## UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR AND SANCTIONS

### Some examples of Minor misbehaviour:

- Disrupting the classroom in any way
- Returning to classroom during breaktime without permission
- Damaging school, or other children's property.
- Not completing homework(without a note of explanation)
- Eating or drinking in class without permission
- Sulking or not giving an honest effort in class

(This is not an exhaustive list)

### Some examples of Serious Misbehaviour:

- Bullying (See school's anti-bullying policy).
- Inappropriate play.
- Kicking, fighting, spitting..
- Throwing objects (objects that could cause harm)
- Abusive language.
- Damaging school/other children's property e.g. permanently defacing walls, books, desks, tables, deliberately breaking windows, destroying other children's work/property.
- Stealing school/staff or other children's property/books etc.
- Leaving school grounds without permission.
- Deliberate disobedience.
- Being cheeky.
- Telling lies.
- Continuous minor misbehaviour automatically becomes a serious misbehaviour

*(This is not an exhaustive list)*

### Some examples of extreme misbehaviour (these may incur automatic suspension)

Threatening behaviour.

Kicking and hitting teachers.



Serious theft.

Serious physical attack

Bringing illegal substances or weapons to school.

*(This is not an exhaustive list)*

## **APPROACH TO NEGATIVE BEHAVIOUR**

The school will always operate on the premise that there is a reason for negative behaviour and that, in most instances, once this had been identified, measures can be put in place to assist the pupil to cease to engage in negative behaviour using a problem solving approach. Every Child has strengths and these will be duly pointed out to the child before any action is taken.

The first steps are to ensure that the child knows that the school really believes in them. This might involve delegating some yard responsibilities to the child. Every measure to encourage the child towards positive behaviour should be taken, before looking at using the sanctions. This is where logical consequences for actions really comes into play.

In order for this to be a realistic goal, it is important that staff, parents and the Board Of Management learn techniques and adopt encouragement as a vital attitude to educating children.(Rudolph Dreikurs, “Encouraging Children to Learn”).

### **The school believes that a sanction should:**

- aim to stop the negative behaviour
- convey the unacceptability of the negative behaviour to the pupil, their parents, their classroom peers and the broader school community
- defuse not escalate a situation
- be applied in a fair and consistent manner
- be timely
- be appropriate
- be implemented in accordance with the principles of natural justice

## **APPROPRIATE SANCTIONS**

1. Verbal / Non verbal warning
2. Temporary separation from peers within classroom for a duration of time depending on severity of behavior
3. If in yard, further separation for longer periods will occur





4. Note in the school diary / phone call/ email home
5. Child sent to the Priomhoide and given detention i.e. during break time.
6. Meeting with parents, principal/deputy principal and class teacher by appointment to discuss misbehaviour, draw up behaviour plan.
7. Suspension - The Principal of Gaelscoil Thiobraid Arann has been delegated the authority by the Board of Management to suspend for a period of 3 days.
8. Dífhirt - Expulsion

**These sanctions may not always follow in this order depending on the severity of the incident.**

## **PROCEDURES IN RESPECT OF SUSPENSION**

**(as per page 77 of the NEWB guidelines)**

- Investigation of the facts to confirm serious misbehaviour.
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- Parents will be informed by phone or in writing about the incident.
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- In the case of an immediate suspension, the parents will be notified by the Principal and arrangements made with them for the pupil to be collected from school immediately. The child will be supervised in the interim away from his peers.

### **If Suspension is still decided upon:**

Principal notifies parent in writing of the decision to suspend. The letter will confirm

- The period of the suspension and the dates on which the suspension will begin and end.
- The reason for the suspension.
- Any study programme to be followed.
- The arrangements for returning to school, including any commitments to be entered into by the student and the parents.
- The provision for appeal to the Board of Management or Secretary General of the DES (Only where the total number of days for which the student has been suspended in the current school year reaches 20 days.)

A pupil will not be suspended for more than 3 days. In exceptional circumstances, where the Principal considers that a suspension period longer than three days is necessary, the Principal will refer the matter to the Board of Management for consideration. A period of ten days suspension will be the maximum period imposed by the Board of Management in such exceptional circumstances.



## **RECORDS AND REPORTS**

Formal written records will be kept of:

- The investigation (including all notes of all interviews held)
- The decision-making process.
- The decision and rationale for the decision.
- The duration of the suspension and any conditions attached to the suspension.

All parents will receive a copy of the School Code of Behaviour when their child/children is enrolled in the school. By enrolling your child, in Gaelscoil Thiobraid Árann, it is implied that parents and guardians agree to the schools Code of Behavior and will work with the school to ensure that their child understands and engages in positive behaviour.

## **REVIEWING THE CODE**

The school Code will be reviewed periodically to ensure that it meets the changing needs of the school and in response to changes in legislation and other educational policy .Major amendments will be made in consultation with all members of the school community.

**Sínithe ag an gCathaoirleach ag cruinniú Bhoird 14ú/10/2025**