

Code of Behaviour

Introductory Statement

This policy was devised and formulated by the school community, involving Board of Management, parents and staff of Cahermore National School, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Education and Skills and the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association (C.P.S.M.A.).

Ethos

Cahermore National School is a co-educational primary school, which strives to provide a well-ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and addressed. While respect is paid to all religious and/or value systems, Cahermore National School is a Catholic school under the Diocese of Kerry.

Compliance with School Ethos

This policy complements the school ethos of nurturing potential in a caring environment where the welfare of children is paramount.

Rationale

The main factors contributing to the formulation of this policy can be summarised as follows:

- The development of self-discipline in pupils based on consideration, respect and tolerance for others.
- The maintenance of good order throughout the school and respect for the environment.
- If the school is to achieve a happy, secure environment in which children can develop to their full potential, it is necessary to provide a framework which promotes constructive behaviour and discourages unacceptable behaviour. The aim is to ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated while acknowledging the right of each child to an education in a non-disruptive environment. The school code places a greater emphasis on rewards rather than on sanctions. There are times however when it may be necessary to impose sanctions in order to maintain good order and to discourage offenders. We recognise the importance of a strong sense of community within the school and the existence of a high level of co-operation among teachers, ancillary staff, pupils, parents, the Board of Management and the Parents' Association.
- A code of positive behaviour will be fostered in Cahermore National School relative to the maturity of the child, to help create a positive environment for the intellectual, physical and emotional development of the individual person. Parents are the first educators and disciplinarians of their children. Teachers/School staff hope to offer positive techniques of motivation, encouragement and reward to create socially responsible adults reflecting the good example given both at home and, in school.

Reward Systems

- Personal satisfaction
- Teacher approval
- Peer approval
- Stars/merit stickers/stamps
- Dispensation from home-work

While every effort will be made to provide stimulating and relevant learning experiences for all pupils and while the school actively supports and rewards respectful behaviour, incidents of misbehaviour can still occur.

Inappropriate Behaviours and Sanctions

Examples of Minor Misbehaviour:

1. Disruption in class
2. Talking out of turn
3. Avoidance of homework
4. Infringement of school rules
5. Name calling
6. Lying
7. Unruliness in corridors/school yard
8. Lack of punctuality
9. Negative response to correction

Examples of Serious Misbehaviour:

- Constant repetition of the above (1-9)
- Physical assault of another
- Verbal abuse of a teacher/pupil
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Constant disobedience
- Cheek/defiance of teacher

Pupils/persons not directly involved can also provide useful information. A written account of the incident from those involved can be informative.

(b) The teacher will keep a written account of these interviews and give a copy to the principal.

(c) If it is determined that a serious breach of discipline has occurred,

(i) The parents will be informed and asked to attend a meeting with the Teacher/Principal.

(ii) The pupil/pupils involved may be requested to attend.

(iii) Appropriate sanctions will be imposed. This may involve suspension from

1 – 3 days.

(iv) The Board of Management will be involved.

(v) A reoccurrence of serious breaches of discipline/bullying may lead to expulsion.

· The Principal, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Board of Management, has the authority to suspend for one day with immediate effect.

· Expulsion may be challenged under Section 29 of the Educational Welfare Officer, 2000 by parents/guardians.

· The grounds for removing a suspension imposed in relation to a pupil are as follows:

a) The pupil and his/her parents meet with Principal

b) Adequate recompense be decided and agreed

c) The Code of Behaviour should be signed by the pupil, and re-signed by parents.

d) Assurance given by pupil that the Code of Behaviour will be observed, and of parent co-operation in its observance.

Roles of the Education Partners

Role of Parent

Schools need the support of parents in order to meet legitimate expectations with regard to good behaviour and discipline. Schools can more easily implement a policy on behaviour and discipline if they receive the active support of the parents. Parents can co-operate with school by encouraging their children to abide by the school rules, by visiting the school when requested to do so by the Principal or other members of staff, by ensuring that homework is completed in line with school policy, and that the child uses the correct dress code. Please communicate regularly with the school about factors likely to affect the behaviour of your child in school. Parents have a vital role to play in ensuring regular attendance in school. Lack of attendance at school will come to the attention of TUSLA.

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Ratification, Communication, Implementation and Review

A copy of the draft Code of Behaviour policy was made available to all members of staff and to the Board of Management. The suggestions/proposals arising were considered by the Policy Committee in finalizing this policy.

· The draft policy was subsequently reviewed and formally ratified by the Board of Management on 20/6/22.

Subsequent to Board of Management ratification, the policy was made available to all staff. Parents can view this policy on the Cahermore National School website at www.cahermorenationalschool.ie.

· The plan will be implemented by the teachers and SNAs supported by the Board of Management from 20/6/22.

· It will be reviewed every 2 years.

· Review Date: June 24

Signed: Ken O'Meara

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date: (Pádraig O'Sullivan) 18/6/24

*Remote Learning is governed by the Code of Behaviour of Cahermore National School.