

# *St Teresa's Primary School (Tullyherron)*



## *Discipline & Positive Behaviour Policy*

**Ratified by:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (Principal)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Chairperson of Board of Governors)

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Review Date

## **INTRODUCTION**

Our school is a community of children, governors, teachers, classroom assistants, supervisory assistants, parents and other adults. A community functions best if there is a mutual respect between all members and an agreed code of conduct which provides the background against which all activities take place. Pupils - and indeed adults - need to feel secure, happy, valued and wanted if they are to develop a positive self-image, be well-adjusted socially and emotionally and, consequently, realise their true potential. We aim to provide a happy, safe environment in which our pupils will thrive and make good progress academically, creatively, physically, socially and morally. We have a duty therefore to promote good behaviour and discipline in our school.

### **Aims:**

To have a disciplined, caring and happy environment conducive to learning;

To enhance the pupils' self-esteem and foster self-respect and respect for others;

To encourage the pupils to develop independence by accepting the need for self-discipline and self-control and taking responsibility for their own behaviour;

To develop the pupils' interpersonal skills and their ability to work co-operatively with others to resolve problems and conflict;

To develop moral values and religious practices in accordance with the Catholic teaching.

To develop a strong sense of community within the school and beyond, fostering tolerance and respect for the rights and beliefs of others.

## **GUIDELINES**

All adults working on the premises are responsible for discipline, setting a good example and ensuring good patterns of behaviour throughout the school.

Children will be encouraged to work and play together showing consideration for the needs and feelings of others.

Good classroom organisation and management are essential to promote positive behaviour.

Good staff/pupil relationships are essential. Children must feel able to approach staff with their problems.

Children, staff, parents and governors must understand and be fully aware of the defined codes of behaviour (rules), sanctions and rewards structure.

Parents should have the opportunity to voice any concerns with staff.

## **CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE**

Discipline is the responsibility of every teacher in the school. Each teacher shares the responsibility for discipline throughout the school and is solely responsible for the discipline in his/her classroom.

Good discipline is essential for effective learning to take place. In order that this goal be achieved we will try to implement the following strategies:

1. Ensure that pupils of different abilities are given appropriate tasks where they can achieve success; Lack of understanding and progress can be reasons for misbehaviour.
2. Make lessons enjoyable and challenging where children feel able to concentrate.
3. Have clear expectations for behaviour and ensure these are clearly communicated to the children.
4. Develop and establish clear routines in the classroom through Classroom Rules or a Code of Conduct.
5. Use positive rather than negative language to communicate expectations and feedback to pupils.
6. Praise disruptive children when their behaviour becomes acceptable.
7. Give regular praise and encouragement to pupils.
8. Encourage pupils to take pride in their work.
9. Provide a range of varied "Circle Time" activities.

# POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

As part of our discipline policy, we at St. Teresa's P.S. have devised a Positive Behaviour Policy, our pupils know that good behaviour is expected from them all at all times. We have the view that behaviour is a choice.

- Good discipline helps develop responsible attitudes and values for life;
- Effective learning can only take place in an atmosphere where standards of good behaviour exist;
- Good discipline is concerned with the safety and well-being of each individual child.

## **Good discipline is based on:**

- Respect for self;
- Respect for other children;
- Respect for adults;
- Respect for property;
- Respect for the environment.

## REWARDS

A system of rewards and incentives are applied with consistency by all the staff. This helps to establish and maintain a climate in which pupils come to appreciate what constitutes acceptable behaviour and positive attitudes. All pupils have a need for positive affirmation and therefore acceptable behaviour and positive attitudes are regularly celebrated within our school.

"Pupil of the Week", our positive behaviour system involves a pupil from each class being chosen by their class teacher at the weekly assembly "Pupil of the Week" for following our Golden Rules. These children will receive a certificate, a trophy and they will also be given responsibilities by their teacher. The children's photograph will be also displayed in the classroom, on the school website and on the Seesaw App.

## **Our Golden Rules are:**

- To be kind to each other;
- Listen to each other;
- Play fairly and safely;
- Tell the truth;
- Do our best.

**Praise can also be given to children in other ways, eg:**

- A quiet word;
- An encouraging smile;
- A written comment on a child's work;
- Acknowledgement of good behaviour in a written comment sent home to parents via Seesaw
- A visit to another teacher or the principal for commendation;
- A public word of praise in front of the group or class;
- Rewarding good effort or neat work with stickers etc.
- A public acknowledgement by the principal at an assembly.

Clearly parents have a duty to ensure that their child does not cause harm, injury or damage to others or to any property or the environment.

Parents are therefore asked to promote and support the general policy and rules of discipline.

In particular, the co-operation of parents is sought in relation to:

- Maintaining good attendance;
- Punctuality;
- Wearing school uniform;
- Caring for school books, equipment, etc;
- Good behaviour on the bus;
- Completing set homework.

Parents will be made welcome to discuss any problems or difficulties their child maybe experiencing at school. We would like parents to share their problems so that they can be resolved as soon as possible and with the minimum of distress to the child.

If the problem is urgent please contact either the Class Teacher or the Principal immediately. For less urgent problems, appointments can be made with the class teacher, outside class contact time.

## **SANCTIONS**

Sanctions are an integral part of our school's discipline policy. They provide pupils with the security of clearly defined boundaries and, in doing so, they encourage appropriate and acceptable behaviour.

We as a staff believe that sanctions should not be applied to entire classes, when the guilty parties have not been identified.

### **Sanctions should:**

- Be fully understood by all staff (teaching and non-teaching), pupils and parents;
- Be applied by the staff in a fair and consistent manner;
- Be applied as soon after the offence as possible, not impulsively, but in a calm and controlled manner;
- Take account of the age and degree of maturity of the pupil and any special educational needs he or she may have, the home background and any other relevant circumstances.

### **Sanctions will include:**

- A look of disapproval.
- Immediate verbal checking of behaviour.
- Asking a child to apologise.
- During playtime pupils will be asked to sit on the bench for 5 minutes to "cool down". Return to play should be only with the permission of the adult on duty.
- Completion of unfinished work during break or lunch times.

### **If unacceptable behaviour continues:**

- Go to another assigned class for rest of session. Miss 15 minutes of next playtime. The child would then return to their class with a chance to choose the appropriate behaviour;
- Individual class teacher may choose to speak to parents at the end of school day;
- Referral to Principal;

- Incident recorded in Principal's Discipline Book;
- Formal parental consultation.

**Referral system is as follows;**

Class Teacher



Principal

- Discussion with pupil, class teacher and principal involving other parties effected to resolve issue.
- If appropriate, pupil's parents will be contacted and informed of incident and strategies agreed.
- A pupil whose behaviour in school regularly gives cause for concern may be referred to the SENCO/LSC for monitoring. I.E.P.s will be drawn up. These I.E.P.s will include behavioural targets. These termly individual targets will be reviewed at the end of each term. The SENCO/LSC will discuss these targets with parents so that they can become actively involved in securing and maintaining their children's good behaviour in school;
- Circle time programme will be used as an opportunity to consider group and individual behaviour and its effect on others;
- In very difficult cases, after consultation with parents, advice may be sought from external support services such as Educational Psychologist. and Behavioural Management Team;

**Severe Misbehaviour**

In the case of serious or persistent misbehaviour a child may lose the right to proceed through the hierarchy of consequences and will be removed from the classroom situation and sent straight to the Principal.

Incidences of "Severe Misbehaviour" would be the following:

- The child's behaviour is not compatible with the provision for the efficient education of other children with whom the child in question is being educated.
- The child's behaviour involves serious, actual or threatened violence against another pupil or member of staff.
- The child puts himself/herself, other pupils, members of staff or the wider community at risk of harm or injury.

In such cases the parents/carers will be informed and the child will be sent home with the parents/carers.

A decision, in consultation with the BOG, whether to exclude the child for a further fixed period of time or to permanently exclude the child will be taken in accordance with CCMS Guidance and the child's parents/carers will be informed of this decision.

A meeting will then take place with the parents/carers, Chair of BOG, Principal, and Class Teacher before the child returns to school, to agree on and implement a behaviour plan for the pupil.

A second meeting will also take place with the Principal, Class Teacher, parent/carer and pupil before the pupil returns to their classroom.

Staff will always be aware that behaviour can be influenced by factors outside school and will be sensitive to this when dealing with individual children.

## **CONCLUSION**

- Responsibility for the behaviour of all children in St. Teresa's Primary School is one which all staff share;
- The general standard of behaviour both within and outside school is excellent;
- We are very proud of the fact that visitors to the school often comment on the good behaviour and politeness of our children;
- In conclusion, we would ask you, the parents, to work as closely as possible with the Principal, teachers and ancillary staff in promoting good behaviour at all times.

It is our clear intention to review and amend our Discipline Policy when appropriate.

### **Supporting Policies:**

Pastoral Care Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

## **REVIEW**

The Discipline/Behaviour policy should take account of current needs and therefore should be reviewed on an annual basis. All staff, pupils and governors will contribute to this review. Where significant changes are contemplated parents will be consulted.

# ST. TERESA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL TULLYHERRON

## SCHOOL RULES

1. School starts at 8.35 am.
2. Children should follow the "Golden Rules" at all times.
3. Children should not play rough or dangerous games, eg fighting, tripping etc.
4. Children are forbidden to eat or bring chewing gum to school at any time.
5. Children should be on their very best behaviour at all times on the bus or coach and must remain in their seats and wear their seat belts at all times.
6. Children should respect and obey the instructions of all adults associated with the school, eg teachers, supervisory assistants, bus drivers, ancillary staff, etc.
7. Wearing of earrings (other than studs) is forbidden in the interests of Health and Safety.
8. No dying of hair - **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES**. Natural hairstyle only acceptable at all times. Violation of this rule will result in child being sent home immediately.
9. Children are encouraged to eat fruit for their break and drink water during the school day. Fizzy drinks are forbidden at all times. There should be no drinks in glass bottles.
10. Children must go out to the playground at play-time and lunch-time and if they have a problem let the teacher/assistant know about it.
11. Children must show great respect for:
  - Each other;
  - The property of others;
  - The school environment - **NO LITTERING**.
12. Pupils are forbidden to have mobile phones in school.
13. Swearing and use of bad language is forbidden at all times.
14. No electronic games are allowed in school.
15. At home-time, all children must line up ready to be escorted to the bus or for collection.