

RUSHEEN N.S. – CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

1/ INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT:

This Policy was formulated by the whole school community of Rusheen N.S. including, pupils, parents, staff and B.O.M.

2/ RATIONALE:

The review of our Code of Behaviour was considered an essential priority as it impacts on all that happens in the school. A Code of Behaviour is required under the terms of Circular 20/90 on School Discipline.

3/ RELATIONSHIP TO CHARACTERISTIC SPIRIT OF THE SCHOOL:

Our Code of Behaviour is closely linked to our Vision/Mission Statement. We are committed to nurturing the full potential of all who work and learn in our school community. We aim to provide a well-ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere for everybody. Our Code of Behaviour will help us achieve this.

4/ AIMS AND PRINCIPLES:

To ensure the safety and well being of all members of the school community:

- a) To enhance the learning environment where all children can make progress in all aspects of their development.
- b) To ensure that the system of rewards and sanctions are implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
- c) To maintain good order throughout the school and respect for the school environment.
- d) To promote positive behaviour, self-discipline, respect and tolerance for others.
- e) To encourage good home/school communication and to foster a positive atmosphere in the school.

5/ SCHOOL RULES:

SAFETY - For our own safety and that of others:

- We will be careful coming to and going from school.
- We will always walk while in the school building.
- We will remain seated in class while eating lunch and when inside on wet days.
- We will always show respect for our fellow pupils in class and in the yard.
- The only jewellery we may display is a single stud on each ear lobe and/or a wrist watch.
- We will bring a note of explanation when we have been absent.
- We will never leave the school premises without the permission of a teacher.

- We will not enter the school grounds after school unless supervised by a teacher.
- We will not play games in the schoolyard before or after school.

CARING FOR MYSELF:

- We will respect ourselves and our property, always keeping our school bag, copies and books in good order.
- We will always come to school in good time.
- We will be appropriately dressed and we will not wear torn jeans, tights or other torn clothing.
- Shorts, if worn, will be approximately knee length.
- We will always be aware of our personal cleanliness and our hair will be neat and tidy.
- We will always bring a nutritional lunch to school (excluding chewing gum and glass bottles).
- We will always do our best in school by listening carefully, working as hard as we can and by completing our homework.

CARING FOR OTHERS:

- We will co-operate with instructions given by teachers and other staff members.
- We will be kind and respectful to fellow pupils, staff and visitors by being mannerly and polite and by taking turns.
- We will be truthful and honest at all times.
- We will never bully others and not allow others to bully us. If it happens we will tell our parents and our teacher. (Refer to Anti-Bullying Policy).
- We will always behave well in class so that we all can learn.
- We will always keep our school clean by recycling.
- We will show respect for the property of our fellow pupils, the school building and the grounds.
- We will not bring our mobile phones or similar electronic devices to school or to school related off site activities. Only in exceptional circumstances and with written permission from parents, may pupils bring a mobile phone to school but it must be switched off and kept out of sight at all times.

STRATEGIES USED IN RUSHEEN N.S. TO PROMOTE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR:

Praising children by means of:

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment in the pupil's exercise book.
- A visit to another member of staff or to the Principal for commendation.
- A word of praise in front of a group or class.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- Informing parents by means of written or verbal communication.
- Offer simple rewards as incentive.
- Extra time at a favourite activity.
- Offer a class reward on the performance/improved performance of an individual.

GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR:

The degree of misdemeanour i.e. minor, serious or gross will be judged by the teacher/principal on a common sense approach. (See Appendix 1 for examples of minor, serious and gross misdemeanours). When imposing a sanction the teacher will make it clear to the child that it is the inappropriate behaviour which is unacceptable and not the individual concerned. As a general rule, inappropriate behaviour in the classroom is dealt with by the class teacher within the classroom, whereas inappropriate behaviour on the Yard is generally dealt with 'on the Yard' by the teacher on supervision duty.

SANCTIONS:

When a pupil displays inappropriate behaviour the following is a list of possible sanctions which may be used:

1. Discussion/Reasoning with the pupil: the pupil is made aware that the behaviour is unacceptable.
2. The child may receive a verbal reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
3. A child may be temporarily separated from the class group, peers, friends or others, and may be sent to another classroom or to the Principal's Office for a period of time (but will not be put standing unsupervised outside a classroom door).
4. Incomplete/unsatisfactory presentation of homework/schoolwork to be re-done/completed.
5. A pupil may be given a written assignment regarding his/her inappropriate behaviour to be signed by parents/guardians.
6. If a pupil's behaviour is a source of danger/disruption to himself or others he may be removed from the activity in which s/he is involved e.g. P.E., Visual Arts, Computers, Play, etc.
7. Loss of privilege, to include loss of playtime if the indiscretion occurs in the yard.
8. Supervised detention during a break.
9. A note in the pupil's Homework Journal to be signed by parents/guardians.
10. The Rule which has been broken is written out three times, signed by parent and teacher and then filed.
11. Referral to Principal Teacher.
12. Repeated Serious Misbehaviour can result in exclusion from school trips.
13. Suspension (temporary)
14. Suspension/expulsion (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by Circular 7/88).
15. If a pupil brings a mobile phone or other such electronic device to school they will be required to hand it over to a member of staff and parents will be asked to collect it from the school office.

GENERAL PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED WHEN A BEHAVIOUR PROBLEM ARISES:

1. The class teacher/teacher in charge deals with it and may impose a sanction. If a parent/guardian wishes to make a complaint regarding a child's behaviour, it is expected that such a complaint would in the first instance be addressed with that child's class teacher and/or with the class teacher of their own child.
2. If the problem is not resolved the class teacher/teacher in charge shall consult with other teachers, and/or the Principal and/or the parents/guardians of the pupil with a view to helping the pupil overcome the difficulty.
3. If the problem persists or in the case of serious misbehaviour it may be necessary to have on-going discussions between the parents/guardians, teacher(s) and Principal/Board of Management to monitor the situation and to deal appropriately with it, always with the objective of helping the child.
4. In the case of an incidence of gross misbehaviour or where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents/guardians will be requested in writing to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson and/or Principal. The Board of Management authorises the Chairperson or Principal to suspend the child for a period of time up to a maximum of three school days initially if such is deemed appropriate.
5. A special decision of the Board of Management is necessary to authorise a further period of suspension up to a maximum of 10 school days. Parents/guardians may be required to meet with representatives of the Board of Management to discuss the matters relating to the child's misbehaviour prior to the authorisation of this second period of suspension. In exceptional situations, the Board of Management may authorise a further period of suspension to enable the matter to be reviewed.
6. The ultimate sanction of expulsion, if necessary, shall be exercised in accordance with relevant guidelines and current legislation.

SUCCESS CRITERIA:

The criteria used to evaluate success will be:

1. Pupil's feedback.
2. Teacher feedback.
3. Teacher observation of behaviour in classroom, yard, on outings, etc.
4. Parent feedback.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY:

Everyone in the school community has the responsibility of implementing the Code of Behaviour. However, the class teacher or supervision teacher has the particular responsibility of implementing the policy and its strategies when the need arises. The Principal teacher has the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the policy and assessing its effectiveness and relevance. It is the responsibility of the parents to encourage their children to comply with school rules and to uphold the different strategies outlined in the policy. Pupils are obliged to do everything in his/her power to uphold the Code of Behaviour and to do nothing to hinder its implementation. Most importantly pupils are obliged to comply with school rules and regulations, whether written or oral, which are considered necessary by school authorities.

RATIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION:

The Board of Management ratified this Code of Behaviour on the 22nd June, 2011.

Enrolling your child in Rusheen N.S. implies acceptance of the principles and procedures as outlined in the Code.

APPENDIX 1

EXAMPLES OF MINOR, SERIOUS AND GROSS MISDEMEANOURS

Minor Misdemeanours:

- Interrupting class work.
- Arriving late for school.
- Running in the school building.
- Leaving seat without permission.
- Placing unfinished food or drink cartons in the bin.
- Leaving litter around the school.
- Being discourteous/unmannerly.
- Not completing homework without a note of explanation.
- Not having homework signed by parent when requested by teacher.
- Inconsideration towards fellow pupils in yard at break time.

Serious Misdemeanours:

- Constantly disruptive in class.
- Telling lies.
- Stealing.
- Damaging other pupil's property.
- Damaging teacher's or school property.
- Bullying.
- Back-answering a teacher.
- Leaving school premises during the day without appropriate permission.
- Deliberately not working to their potential.
- Using unacceptable language.
- Deliberately injuring another pupil.
- Bringing a mobile phone or other such electronic device to school.

Gross Misdemeanours:

- Setting fire to school property.
- Leaving taps turned on deliberately.
- Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher, pupil or any member of the school community.
- Breaking school windows.
- Breaking in to the school building.
- Any act that seriously threatens the safety of any member of the school community in the classroom, the schoolyard or on school outings.

It should be noted that these lists consist of examples only. It is not meant to be a comprehensive list of misdemeanours.