

Code of Behaviour

September 2017

Policy Document

Belclare National School



Code of Behaviour

S.N. AN CROÍ RÓ NAOFA, BELCLARE

The Family and home environment play a fundamental role in the moral behavioural and social development of children. The establishment of good discipline in schools is not effective without the co-operation of parents.

School Ethos: it is the aim of this school to provide a safe, happy and friendly environment for all our pupils. The school operates on the basis of mutual respect and courtesy and believes that a positive school ethos is based on good relationships. This requires a high level of co-operation between staff, pupils and parents. It is the right of each child to receive education in a secure non-bullying and relatively disruption free environment.

Behaviour: The school disapproves of vulgar, offensive sectarian, racist or other aggressive behaviour by any of it's members. Bullying (verbal or physical) is not tolerated in the school.

School policy: All efforts will be made to match the curriculum to the abilities, aptitudes and interests of each pupil. This should help reduce boredom, lack of interest and lack of progress.

Rules are kept to a minimum and state positively in terms of what pupils should do. Each teacher has responsibility for the discipline within his/her classroom, while sharing a common responsibility for good order within the school premises.

The teachers on supervision in the lunch and play areas during break times will deal with problems that arise and may inform the relevant class teacher or the Principal teacher if necessary. A pupil will be referred to the Principal teacher for serious breaches of discipline and for repeated incidents of minor behaviour.

Strategies which may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour:

- ❖ Reasoning with the pupil
- ❖ Reprimand (including advice on how to behave)
- ❖ Temporary separation from peers, friends or others.
- ❖ Loss of privileges
- ❖ Incomplete work may have to be completed
- ❖ Badly presented work may have to be redone
- ❖ Referral to principal Teacher
- ❖ Communication with parents
- ❖ Suspension (temporary) under the terms of the Department of Education Circular 2000.
- ❖ 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.

Communication; 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. This will be verbal or by letter depending on the circumstances. The parents concerned will be invited to the school to discuss the child's case. For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, suspension will be considered. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour depending on circumstances.

Behaviour in the classroom

Pupils must respect the right of other pupils to learn. Any behaviour that interferes with this right e.g. constant disruption of the class or persistent distraction of others is considered unacceptable behaviour. Pupils must co-operate with instruction given by the teacher and are expected to behave in an orderly and safe manner at all times. Work assigned during the day must be completed and be carefully and neatly presented. Homework - oral, written, memorisation, projects etc. must be completed. All pupils should bring to school each day pens, pencils, copies, books etc., necessary to do their work properly.

Examples of misbehaviour in class.

- ❖ Talking in class (when specifically asked not to) often regularly or continuously.
- ❖ Causing disruption or speaking out of turn
- ❖ Distracting other children
- ❖ Running/chasing around the classroom
- ❖ Not carrying out or completing assigned work whether in school or for homework, without good reason.
- ❖ Ignoring instruction given by teacher
- ❖ Work not presented in a neat and acceptable way
- ❖ Not having the necessary books, copies, pens, pencils etc. to do work properly.
- ❖ Defiant, cheeky or sulk behaviour.
- ❖ Verbal abuse of another child or teacher.
- ❖ Assault on another child or teacher
- ❖ Injuring another child or teacher with pencil, compass, ruler etc.
- ❖ Stealing - ranging from minor pilfering to serious theft.
- ❖ Throwing things e.g. paper aeroplanes, books, copies, items of clothing etc.
- ❖ Interfering with or hiding another child's school bag or other belongings.
- ❖ Writing or passing notes
- ❖ Whispering or passing comments about other pupils or the teacher.

Behaviour in play area

Pupils must treat others, as they would like to be treated themselves. Any behaviour which endangers others is not permitted. Any behaviour which interferes with the play of others is not permitted.

Examples of misbehaviour in play and other areas;

- ❖ Rough behaviour e.g. kicking, punching, hitting, spitting, shoving, pinching etc.
- ❖ Knocking people to the ground
- ❖ Bad language
- ❖ Name calling
- ❖ Interfering with another child's clothes
- ❖ Running/chasing games or activities, which present a danger to others.
- ❖ Leaving the play area for any reason without the permission of the supervising teacher.
- ❖ Retaliation by a pupil following an incident
- ❖ Excluding a child from a game/activity against his/her wishes.
- ❖ Carrying/using dangerous implements e.g. penknives, pencils, sticks etc.
- ❖ Not waiting in turn for an activity
- ❖ Climbing on walls, basketball poles, the trees, drainpipes, gates, railings etc.
- ❖ Running, pushing or shouting in corridor, toilets or other areas inside the school.

Rules for pupils.

- ❖ Show respect at all times for other pupils and their property apologise if you were in the wrong
- ❖ Be punctual in attendance
- ❖ Complete your homework
- ❖ Complete work assigned in the classroom without disrupting other pupil's work
- ❖ Comply with the school uniform
- ❖ Seek permission if you need to leave the classroom or playground
- ❖ Supply a note explaining your absence or seeking permission to leave school early
- ❖ Mobile phones will be held by class teacher during school hours.

Bullying; See Anti Bullying Policy.