

Code of Behaviour



Ard Rí Community National School

Balreask Old,

Navan,

County Meath.

Roll Number 20352T



Aims of the Code of Behaviour:

- To create a positive environment that is conducive to learning, in which the pupils can develop self-discipline, feel secure and make progress in all aspects of their development.
- To reinforce positive behaviour which allows the school to function in an orderly, harmonious way.
- To promote self-esteem and self-motivation.
- To create an atmosphere of respect, tolerance and consideration for others.

- To recognise the differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
- To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the school community.
- To assist parents and pupils in understanding the systems and procedures that form part of the Code of Behaviour and to seek their co-operation in the application of these procedures.
- To ensure that every effort is made to implement the Code of Behaviour in a positive, fair and consistent manner.
- To base all interactions from a place of mutual respect.
- To endorse the ethos of Community National Schools.

This code of behaviour will be available on the school's website and given to parents on the enrolment of their child. For the protection of the whole school community, full compliance with this Code of Behaviour is compulsory.

Expectations

Behaviour in class

Pupils are expected to:

- Show respect for others to ensure a safe, happy and secure working environment.
- Co-operate fully with instructions given by the teachers.
- Complete, to the best of their ability, oral and/or written work assigned to them in school and for homework.
- Leave and return to class in an orderly fashion.
- Bring all required books, copies and materials to school and home each day.
- Keep their own area, and the classroom, neat and tidy at all times.
- Remain seated and quiet in the event of being supervised by another teacher.
- Treat the property of the school and other pupils with respect.
- Wear the correct uniform each day.

Behaviour in Yard & School Environment:

- Pupils must accept the authority of all staff members.
- For reasons of safety and to minimise accidents, pupils will move around the school in an orderly fashion.
- Boisterous behaviour, rough play and inappropriate language are prohibited.
- Pupils must remain within the designated area of the yard for their class groupings during break times.
- Permission must be sought to re-enter school buildings from staff member on yard.
- Drinks, games, gadgets and mobile phones are not allowed in the yard.
- Pupils must keep playgrounds litter free.
- When the bell rings at the end of breaks, children must freeze and on the second bell, walk in an orderly fashion to their line.
- At break times on wet days, pupils must remain seated and not leave their seats without permission. On wet days teachers will make every effort to integrate movement breaks into the daily routine.

The yard motto:

Kind hands, kind feet, kind words.

Behaviour on school outings (e.g. school tours, walks, swimming trips):

- Pupils must show respect to members of the public.
- For reasons of safety and to minimise accidents, pupils will behave in an orderly fashion.
- Co-operate fully with instructions given by the staff members.

Note to parents:

To promote positive life skills in our children we ask parents to ensure that:

- Your child arrives to school on time.
- Your child is collected from school on time.
- Your child is wearing the full school uniform.
- Your child completes their homework, as assigned.
- Your child has a lunch that will sustain them for the school day.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Ard Rí CNS endeavours to help children achieve their personal best and thus prepare them for future education, life and work. Our reward systems seek to provide encouragement to all children of all abilities and talents. Praise is earned by the maintenance of good standards as well as by particularly noteworthy personal achievements.

Positive behaviour will be reinforced by:

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment in a child's copy book.
- A word of praise in front of a group or class.
- A system of individual and/or group merits (e.g. Class Dojo/Warm Fuzzies).

- Communication of positive behaviour with the home, either through verbal or written communication.
- A visit to another member of staff or to the Principal for commendation.
- Yard Reward System: each class has a crown displayed on the door of their classroom. Members of staff may reward children with a token and a high five individually or as a group for positive behaviour during break times. Once the class has reached a target of thirty tokens, the class receives a reward of 20 minutes extra golden time (extra play time, a nature walk, extra art, board games etc.). Children are encouraged to tackle disagreements with peers on yard using Rock Paper Scissors.

Procedure to Deal with Misbehaviour

It is important that the children know in advance what the sanctions are and that it is the behaviour, not the child, that is being reprimanded. Sanctions are necessary to register disapproval of unacceptable behaviour and to help children take responsibility for their own actions.

Staged Approach

Disapproval of unacceptable behaviour may be dealt with as follows:

- 1) A quiet word or gesture to show disapproval by any staff member.
 - 2) **Warning** - Pupils are orally informed of misdemeanour. (If misdemeanour occurs while the pupil is on yard, the child's class teacher will be informed) Class reward system may be affected. At the teacher's discretion, privileges may be withdrawn.
- **Black Card** – The incident will be noted on the child's individual record and the child will be given a time out (either in a time out area within the class or another classroom as deemed appropriate by the teacher). A Black Card Report Form will be sent home to be signed by a parent, detailing the nature of the misbehaviour. The signed Black Card Report Form must be presented by the child to the Principal by 9.30am the following morning. At the teacher's discretion, privileges may be withdrawn.

- 3) **Yellow Card** - If the child receives two black cards within a week or in the case of a more serious misdemeanour the child will be given a straight Yellow Card.
- Yellow Cards will result in the child being separated from peers at breaktime in a supervised setting. The child will be given a Behaviour Reflection Sheet appropriate to their age.
 - The incident will be recorded on the child's individual record and parents will be informed at the teacher's earliest opportunity.
 - The Behaviour Reflection Sheet will also be sent home to be signed by a parent and must be presented by the child to the Principal by 9.30am the following morning.
 - At the teacher's discretion, privileges may be withdrawn.
- 4) **Red Card** - If there is another yellow card incident in the same day the child will be given a Red Card. If there are three yellow card incidents in two weeks the child will be given a Red Card. If there is an incident of gross misdemeanour the child will be given a Red Card.
- They will be referred to the Principal or Deputy Principal.
 - Parents will be notified of the incident as soon as possible and the child will be removed from class.
 - Red card offences may result in suspension/expulsion as per guidelines.

Examples of some Minor Misdemeanours (Steps 1 – 3: Warning, Black Card)

- Interrupting class work
- Compromising safety of self/others
- Not following instructions from staff members
- Leaving seat without permission at lunch time
- Littering the school grounds
- Being discourteous or unmannerly
- Not complying with instructions from staff members
- Incomplete homework without good reason

N.B. This list is not exhaustive

Examples of serious misdemeanours (Step 4: Yellow Card)

- All minor misdemeanours when on a continuous/repeated basis
- Telling lies
- Stealing
- Damaging property of others
- Bullying (Seriousness of Bullying is up to Principal's discretion)
- Disrespect for adults or peers
- Leaving the school building during the school day without appropriate permission
- Intentionally working at a level significantly below their potential
- Using unacceptable language and/or gestures
- Minor physical interference e.g. laying a hand on/ pushing/ pulling/ jostling etc.

N.B. This list is not exhaustive

Examples of gross misdemeanours (Step 5: Red Card)

- All serious misdemeanours on an extreme or continuous basis
- Leaving the school premises during the school day without appropriate permission
- Unauthorised absence from school
- Setting fire to school property
- Deliberately vandalising school property e.g. setting fires, leaving taps on
- Deliberately striking any staff member
- Deliberately striking a fellow pupil
- Interfering with fire safety equipment/ AED
- Aggressive, insulting, threatening or violent behaviour towards staff/ pupils
- Smoking/drinking alcohol/possessing or using drugs
- Bringing a weapon to school
- Overt sexual behaviour
- Bullying (Seriousness of Bullying is up to Principal's discretion)

N.B. This list is not exhaustive

Suspension and Expulsion

In the case of a serious offence or repeated continual less serious misdemeanours, a student may be suspended or expelled from school. In such cases, the school will follow the LMETB Suspension and Expulsion Policy (**Appendix A**). This document is available from the school website or from the office upon request.

Children with Additional Needs

No code of behaviour can be so exhaustive as to cater for all eventualities, therefore we as a staff will be flexible in implementing the code in order to respond effectively to the individual needs and context of each child. This may take form as an Individual Behaviour Plan. As such, Individual Behaviour Plans will reflect the Code of Behaviour as closely as is possible for the individual child. The Individual Behaviour Plan will be created in collaboration with the child, teachers, parents and principal.

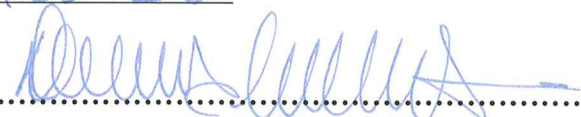
Declaration of Equal Status for Ard Ri Community National School

The staff and pupils in this school have a right to work for and learn in a safe supportive environment. In the interest of pupil and staff safety this school will not tolerate verbal abuse, threatening behaviour or physical violence. Under the Equal Status Act 2000, offenders will be reported to Gardaí.

9. Review and Adoption

This policy shall be reviewed periodically, in light of emerging legislation and circulated Guidelines from the Department of Education and Skills advice from NEPS or other statutory body or feedback from staff, parents and pupils.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management of Ard Ri CNS at its meeting on 29.05.2018.

Signed:  (*Chairperson*)

Signed:  (*Principal*)

Date: 29.05.2018