

St. Joseph's National School

Code of Behaviour

Introduction

The aim of our school is to provide a place of learning where children can be educated in a happy relaxed atmosphere. We aim to uphold the rights, dignity and responsibilities of each child. We try to foster Christian values and to promote self-discipline as far as possible i.e. each child is responsible for his/her own actions. Each child has a right to develop and learn without being disturbed by poor behavior of others. Therefore we encourage mutual respect for self, other children, teachers, other adults and property. In a positive learning environment we aim to encourage and promote each child to reach his/her full potential. We aim to protect all children and their belongings to the best of our ability.

Classroom Behavior

Children are expected to come and go quietly and sensibly and work away with each other without causing disturbance. Each child is expected to observe classroom rules.

Playground Behavior

Children are encouraged to play safely and enjoy games in the playground. Rough, dangerous play is unacceptable. Bullying or intimidation in any form will not be tolerated. A written record of behavior good and bad will be kept. Parents' attention can be drawn to this book when necessary.

Attendance

Each child is expected to attend school regularly and punctually. Absence from school should be explained in writing by parents or guardians. Under the Education Welfare Act (2000) the name of any child who has been absent for 20 days or more within the school year will be forwarded to the Education Welfare Board.

School Rules

1. Say something nice or nothing at all (no name-calling, hurtful comments or bad language).
2. Silence, whispering, normal talking. Know when, where and why. (Silence when the teacher is talking to the class, or when talking to another adult or when she/he leaves the classroom. Put your hand up when you wish to speak and wait until you are asked.)
3. In the line in class and in school quiet orderly walking is the rule. (Children are not allowed to ramble around the classroom. No running anywhere inside the building.)

4. Have homework done, be tidy, and be in on time. (All homework to be attempted, full uniform including tie to be worn at all times. School tracksuit to be worn on tracksuit day only, doesn't be late.)
5. Show respect, earn respect. (Sir, Miss, Mrs., Fr, when addressing an adult. Be mannerly and polite. Treat others, as you would wish them to treat you.)
6. Bully not, share a lot, tidy up and return what you've got. (No bullying, do not take things that don't belong to you, put litter in the bin, share with others and take turns.)
7. Once in the school stay in the school. (No child is allowed to leave the school grounds without permission.)

Yard rules

1. Follow instructions straight away.
2. No rough or dangerous play.
3. Do not go inside the school building during break times without permission.
4. When the first bell rings stop what you are doing and stand still. On hearing the second bell walk to the line immediately, no pushing or rough behavior in the line.

Behaviour Agreements

While the above rules still stand, colour-coded agreements (see appendix A) were introduced to aid good behavior. These agreements include both the rights and responsibilities of each child and are implemented as follows:

- A verbal request from the teacher for 'good green'; 'good blue' etc. is made.
- A verbal reminder is given
- If the behavior hasn't improved then a direct warning is given followed by a two minute time-out in the time-out area at the back of the class.
- Child returns to his/her desk at the end of the time-out period

The week is divided into two sessions 1) Monday – Wednesday lunchtime and 2) Wednesday lunchtime to Friday. At the end of each session a class reward is given. If a child has two or more time-outs in any given day, that child is not included in the reward. Rewards are decided on by the teacher and may include time to begin homework, extra play time etc.

Major Incidents (bullying, fighting, use of abusive language, damage to property etc.)

- Separate/isolate child/children involved allowing for investigation.
- Investigate and record an account of the incident and record any witness' names. A central record book will be kept in the office.

- First Offence: detention for 15 minutes at the break, to be occupied by writing lines /an apology and or classroom work
- More frequent breeches of discipline: weekend homework, detention at break and parents informed. A letter of warning to be sent to the parents.
- Meeting with parents in the presence of another teacher to agree on a suitable punishment.
- In extreme cases an emergency staff meeting will be held to discuss appropriate action including possible suspension.

Anti-bullying Policy (see separate policy)

Appendix A

Red Rule

When I am in school or in my class I will not harm or hurt anyone

When I am in school or in my class I will not be harmed or hurt by anyone

Black Rule

When I am in school or am in my class others will mind school and my belongings

When I am in school or am in my class I will mind school and others belongings

Blue Rule

When I am in my class and I hold up my hand teacher asks me to speak, I can speak and others will listen.

When I am in my class and others hold up their hands and teacher asks them to speak they can speak and I will listen

Green Rule

When I am in my class it is teacher's job to teach, I will listen so others can learn

When I am in my class it is teacher's job to teach, others will listen so I can learn