

# Code of Behaviour

## **Introduction:**

Saint Columba's National School Mixed, North Strand, Dublin 3 has decided to review its current Code of Behaviour in the light of the Education Act 1998, and The Equal Status Act 2000.

**This Code was adopted by Board of Management on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2004. The teachers on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2004. The parents and pupils on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2004. It was reviewed and amended by the Board of Management on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008 Reviewed and adopted by Senior class students on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and reviewed and accepted by parents on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008.**

## **Aims:**

This school aims to provide education for all its pupils, to the best of its ability, in accordance with the Revised Curriculum provided by the Department of Education and Science. This school also aims to ensure that this takes place in a calm, supportive and purposeful manner. Good behaviour will be encouraged, acknowledged and praised. To achieve this, it is necessary to have an open and clear understanding of acceptable behaviour and attitudes towards each other both at work and at play. When problems arise, the whole school community aims to work in a restorative manner to address issues in a fair way.

It is necessary that there be agreed guidelines for all those who study or work in this school so that it will help us:-

- To allow the school to function in an orderly manner
- To enhance the learning potential of all children
- To foster an understanding of others needs and abilities
- To ensure the safety and well-being of children and adults
- To give each child a positive experience of the Education System.

It is important that children, teachers and parents support each other to achieve the above aims. The Code of Behaviour applies during the school day and during organised school activities. Outside of these times, responsibility for the behaviour of the child reverts to the parents / guardians. The school is responsible for dealing with matters of behaviour which occur within the school. Parents should consult with teachers when matters arise inside or outside the school which impact on school life. Parents should not approach children other than their own to discuss matters of behaviour relating to school.

## **Behaviour Code**

Each child is expected to:-

*(Personally)*

1. Attend school everyday
2. Do his / her best in both school work and homework
3. Take care of his / her belongings

*(Towards Others)*

4. Be well-behaved and exercise good manners with other pupils and adults
5. Exercise respect for the property of the school
6. Exercise respect for each other's property
7. Respect the rights of all children to an education and not to interfere in any way with that right.

Adults are expected to:-

- Treat all members of the school community with fairness and respect
- Support and encourage positive behaviour in the school

Anti-Social behaviour will be deemed "Unacceptable Behaviour" such as:

- Name calling
- Ganging-up
- Abusive or bad language
- Spitting
- Stealing
- Rough play
- Damaging property
- Preventing other children or teacher from working
- Mobile Phones – they must be turned OFF from 8.50am – 2.10pm.

**Strategies for acknowledging and promoting positive behaviour:-**

- Teacher will use verbal praise and encouragement to highlight positive behaviour
- Teachers will use a reward strategy such as stickers, reward charts, small prizes and privileges to encourage good behaviour
- Positive behaviour will be publicly acknowledged at regular intervals through the use of certificates presented to pupils.

**The following strategies will be used to help a child in order to reduce incidences of unacceptable behaviour:-**

1. Be warned officially to stop and asked to “think” about their behaviour
2. Be moved temporarily to another seat or another room
3. Prescribed additional work and / or be detained during a break-time or activity to consider their behaviour
4. The teacher will keep an account of the frequency of the occurrence.
5. Parents/Guardians will be informed of such occurrences
6. An agreement may be entered into with the child towards improvement
7. Where appropriate a restorative event may be held under the guidance of the principal, a teacher or an external facilitator. The parties to such an event may include children, teachers, parents or other interested parties as deemed relevant to the specific situation.

Incidents of serious misbehaviour will be reported immediately to the principal and/or the Board of Management.

Examples of Incidents of serious misbehaviour may include:

- Violence or assault
- Serious theft
- Serious damage to property
- Smoking
- Alcohol (consumption of)
- Illegal Substances (possession, supply, or consumption of)
- Threats
- Dangerous Weapons (possession, use, or threat of use)
- Phones or electronic devices used during school hours in an inappropriate manner
- Bullying (see anti-bullying policy)

Should the Board of Management deem that the misbehaviour is grievously affecting the school order, then the following may apply:

- Re-negotiating with the child and parents
- Asking the child to enter into a agreement towards improvement
- In extreme circumstances the Principal may find it necessary to impose immediate suspension pending consultation with the child, parents, staff and Board of Management
- Should Suspension or Expulsion be deemed necessary, the Principal or Board

of Management will send a registered letter of this decision to the parent / guardian.

In the case of serious misbehaviour, parents will be contacted immediately.

- The school will endeavour to work with parents to help the child to improve their behaviour
- The school shall advise parents regarding appropriate supports such as medical / psychological service which are available.
- The school apply such sanctions as are appropriate to the needs of the child and the common good of the whole school community.

Under the Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 Parents (or pupils who have reached the age of 18) are entitled to appeal to the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Science if (1) permanent exclusion from a school or (2) suspension for a period which would bring the cumulative period of suspension to 20 school days or longer in any one school year, has been decided.

Appeals must be made within 42 calendar days from the date of the receipt of notification, by the parent / guardian, of the decision.

Sanctions for serious misbehaviour

- Extended detention period
- Loss or withdrawal of privileges
- Sanction designed in conjunction with parents (class teacher, principal, chairperson and/or Board of Management where appropriate
- Suspension
- Expulsion

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Canon Roy H. Byrne  
Chairman of the Board of Management

***Review Date: 15.10.2015***