



**Saint Columba's National School,
North Strand,
Dublin 3**

Code of Behaviour Policy

St Columba's N.S. Code of Behaviour

Introduction:

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

This policy has been further informed by “Developing a Code of Behaviour – Guidelines for Schools” (NEPS).

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/guardians 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 parents/guardians.**

The school is responsible for dealing with matters of behaviour which occur within the school. Parents/guardians should consult with teachers when matters arise inside or outside the school which impact on school life. Parents/Guardians should not approach other parents/guardians or children (other than their own) to discuss matters of behaviour relating to school.

Behaviour Code

Each child is expected to:-

- Personally*
- Attend school everyday
 - Do his / her best in both schoolwork and in homework
 - Take care of his / her belongings

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

Adults are expected to treat all members of the school community with fairness and respect and to support and encourage positive behaviour in the school.

Unacceptable Behaviour

Anti-Social behaviour will be deemed “unacceptable behaviour”, this includes but is not limited to:

- Name calling
- Ganging-up
- Abusive or bad language
- Spitting
- Stealing
- Rough play
- Damaging property
- Preventing other children or teacher from working
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones or IT devices (all devices must be switched 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 and participation in a variety of activities will be publicly acknowledged at regular intervals through the use of certificates and awards presented to pupils.

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

- An official warning will be given to stop; child(ren) will then be moved to a safe place and asked to “think” about their behaviour.
- The child(ren) will be moved temporarily to another seat or another room.
- Teachers can set additional work and / or the child(ren) can be detained during a break-time or activity to consider their behaviour or asked to shadow teacher or SNA for part of their break.

- The teacher will keep an account of the frequency of the occurrence.
- Parents/Guardians will be informed of such occurrences.
- An agreement may be entered-into with the child, to help towards improvement.
- An appropriate 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.

Serious misbehaviour

Incidents of serious misbehaviour will be reported immediately to the Principal and/or the Board of Management. Examples of serious misbehaviour may include but are not limited to:

- Violence or assault
- Serious theft
- Serious damage to property
- Smoking (possession, supply or use of)
- Alcohol (possession, supply or consumption of)
- Illegal Substances (possession, supply, or consumption of)
- Threats
- Dangerous Weapons (possession, use, or threat of use)
- Use of phones or electronic devices during school hours in an inappropriate manner (see “ICT Acceptable use policy”)
- 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/guardians.
- Asking the child to enter into an agreement to improve behaviour.
- In extreme circumstances the Principal may find it necessary to impose immediate suspension pending consultation with the child, parents/guardians, 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 parents/guardians. In the case of serious misbehaviour, parents/guardians will be contacted immediately. The school will endeavour to work with parents/guardians to help the child to improve their behaviour.
- The school shall advise parents/guardians 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 Section 29 of the Education Act 1998, parents/guardians (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 the decision notification by parents/guardians.

Sanctions for serious mis-behaviour:-

- Extended reflection 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

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management in November 2018 and reviewed and ratified in October 2019.

Signed by the Rev'd Garth Bunting
Chairman of the Board of Management
St Columba's N.S.

on October 23rd 2019