



LIOSMÓR MOCHUDA NATIONAL SCHOOL
Big Trees from Small Acorns Grow

Code of Behaviour

Policy Statement

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The aims of the Code of Behaviour for Liosmór Mochuda National School are:

- To help children to develop a self discipline and maturity based on respect for themselves and for others.
- To provide guidance for pupils, teachers and parents on expectations of behaviour.
- To provide for the effective and safe operation of the school.
- To develop pupils' self-esteem and to promote positive behaviour.
- To foster the development of a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in pupils based on respect, consideration and tolerance of others.
- To facilitate the education and development of every child.
- To foster caring attitudes to one another and to the environment.
- To enable teachers to teach without disruption.

Implementation:

Every member of the school community has a role to play in the implementation of the Code of Behaviour. Rules will be kept to a minimum, emphasis is placed on positive behaviour and sanctions will be applied in a fair and consistent manner, with due regard to the age of the pupils and to individual difference. Good behaviour will be encouraged and rewarded. Where difficulties arise, parents will be contacted at an early stage.

General Guidelines for Positive Behaviour:

1. Because I like to be happy and be treated with respect and understanding:

- I must treat all adults and fellow pupils with respect and courtesy. Behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to feel safe is unacceptable.
- I must treat all teachers with politeness and obedience and respect their authority.
- I must take pride in my appearance, to have all my books and required materials and to be in the right place at the right time.
- I must not use bad language, as this insults myself and others.
- I must be kind to others, so I must not call names, tease or try to hurt others' feelings.

2. Because I like my property to be safe:

- I must show respect for all school property and keep the school environment clean and litter free.
- If I damage property I must replace it.

3. Because I have the right to obtain maximum benefit from all lessons – other pupils will not deprive me of this by behaviour:

- I have a responsibility to co-operated with my teachers and obey their instructions, to work to the best of my ability and to present assignments neatly.
- I must not prevent other children from learning by behaving badly in class.
- I must listen to others and not speak when someone is speaking
- I must attend every day unless there is a genuine reason for absence, in which case the school must be informed in writing, stating the reason for absence.

4. **Because I like to be safe:**

- I must make the school safe for others, not threatening, hitting or hurting others.
- I must walk calmly and quietly coming and going from school, in school and on school tours. This is to avoid accidents.

Bullying:

Bullying is repeated verbal, psychological or physical aggression by an individual or group against others. The most common forms of bullying are aggressive physical contact, name-calling, intimidation, extortion, isolation and taunting. Bullying will not be tolerated and parents will be expected to cooperate with the school at all times in dealing with instances of bullying in accordance with the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.

Affirming Positive Behaviour:

Positive reinforcement of good behaviour leads to better self-discipline and we place a greater emphasis on rewards and incentives than on sanctions.

Strategies/Incentives:

- Immediate praise.
- Awarding prizes for effort.
- Targets for special needs and resource children.
- End of year certificates.
- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment on a child's exercise book.
- A visit to another class or Principal for commendation.
- Praise in front of class group.
- Individual class merit awards, points awards or award stamps.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- Written or verbal communication with parent.

Discouraging Misbehaviour:

The purpose of sanctions and other strategies is to promote positive behaviour and discourage misbehaviour. Sanctions will be applied according to the gravity of the misbehaviour, with due regard to age and emotional development. These may include

- Reasoning with pupil.
- Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve.
- Temporary separation from peers within class and/or temporary removal to another class.
- Prescribing extra work.
- Loss of privileges.
- Detention during break.
- Communication with parents.
- Referral to Principal.
- Principal communicating with parents.
- If the school interventions do not work then outside services will be called in to help the child with their problems.

Pupils will not be deprived of engagement in a Curricular Area, except on the grounds of health/safety or if they are preventing other children from learning.

Suspension/Expulsion:

Before serious sanctions such as detention, suspension or expulsion are used, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Where it is proposed to detain a pupil after school hours, the parents or guardians will be notified. Communication with parents may be verbal or by letter depending on the circumstances.

For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension (3 days) may be considered. Parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher or pupil will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour.

Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents will be requested in writing to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson and the principal. If the parents do not give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future the pupil may be suspended for a period. Prior to suspension, where possible, the Principal may review the case in consultation with teachers and other members of the school community involved, with due regard to records of previous misbehaviours, their pattern and context, sanctions and other interventions used and their outcomes and any relevant medical information. Suspension will be in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular and Education Welfare Act 2000.

In the case of gross misbehaviour, where it is necessary to ensure that order and discipline are maintained and to secure the safety of the pupils, the Board may authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding three school days, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents.

Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with the Rule for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000. Before suspending or expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Local Welfare Education Officer in writing in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.

Removal of Suspension (Reinstatement):

Following or during a period of suspension, the parent/s may apply to have the pupil reinstated to the school. The parent/s must give a satisfactory undertaking that a suspended pupil will behave in accordance with the school code and the Principal must be satisfied that the pupil's reinstatement will not constitute a risk to the pupil's own safety or that of the other pupils or staff. The Principal will facilitate the preparation of a behaviour plan for the pupil if required and will re-admit the pupil formally to the class.

School Rules:

School rules are kept to a minimum and are devised with regard for the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community. These rules and regulations are clearly stated and enforced consistently and fairly.

1. Please notify the school in writing of any absences from school, stating the reason for the absence. (A legal requirement under the Education Welfare Act)
2. Chewing gum, crisps and lollipops are not permitted in the school. The school has a healthy eating policy and are only allowed a treat on Fridays.
3. The children are encouraged not to wear outdoor shoes on the carpeted areas to maintain hygiene. They are encouraged to wear slippers.
4. Each child must have a pencil, an eraser, a sharpener and colouring pencils or markers. First to Sixth pupils must have a ruler.
5. Mobile phones (in light of their widespread misuse by young children and to protect them from unwanted distractions), cameras, i-pods, game boys and toys are not allowed in school. If found, they will be confiscated and may only be reclaimed by a parent/guardian. Toys prove a distraction and the school supplies games and toys for the children. Toys may be requested by the teacher at times to enhance a curriculum activity. The school holds no responsibility for lost or damaged toys.
6. Invitations to parties etc. are not to be distributed in school to prevent the exclusion of any child.

Children are encouraged at all times to communicate with staff in the school. A parent can ring the school during office hours (or via mobile outside office hours) and arrange a meeting with the class teacher/Principal should they feel the need. There is a report book for logging communications.

Before/After School:

This code only applies when the children are in school or on school activities and tours. Parents are reminded that the staff of the school does not accept responsibility for pupils before the school opens at 9:20 a.m. or after the official closing time of 3:00 p.m. except where pupils are engaged in an extra-curricular activity organised by the school and approved by the Board of Management. Pupils involved in such activities are expected to behave in accordance with school behaviour policy during these times.

Board of Management's Responsibilities:

- Provide a comfortable, safe environment.

- Support the Principal and staff in implementing the code.
- Ratify the code.

Principal's Responsibilities:

- Promote a positive climate in the school.
- Ensure that the Code of Behaviour is implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
- Arrange for review of the Code, as required.

Teachers' Responsibilities:

Support and implement the school's code of behaviour.

- Create a safe working environment for each pupil.
- Recognise and affirm good work.
- Prepare school work and correct work done by pupils.
- Recognise and provide for individual talents and differences among pupils.
- Be courteous, consistent and fair.
- Keep opportunities for disruptive behaviour to a minimum.
- Deal appropriately with misbehaviour.
- Keep a record of instances of serious misbehaviour or repeated instances of misbehaviour.
- Provide support for colleagues.
- Communicate with parents when necessary and provide reports on matters of mutual concern.

Pupils' Responsibilities:

- Attend school regularly and punctually.
- Listen to their teachers and act on instructions/advice.
- Show respect for all members of the school community.
- Respect all school property and the property of other pupils.
- Avoid behaving in any way which would endanger others.
- Avoid all nasty remarks, swearing and name-calling.
- Include other pupils in games and activities.
- Bring correct materials/books to school.
- Follow school and class rules.

Parents/Guardians' Responsibilities:

Encourage children to have a sense of respect for themselves and for property.

- Ensure that children attend regularly and punctually.
- Be interested in, support and encourage their children's school work.

- Be familiar with the code of behaviour and support its implementation.
- Co-operate with teachers in instances where their child's behaviour is causing difficulties for others.
- Communicate with the school in relation to any problems which may affect child's progress/behaviour.

Implementation and Renewal Date:

- This policy will be implemented from the date on which it is ratified by the Board of Management. It will be formally reviewed in December 2018 by those with Roles of Responsibility in consultation with other members of staff

Ratified by Board of Management on _____
(Date)

Signed _____
(Chairperson, Board of Management)