



St. Patrick's Junior School

TENNIS COURT LANE, SKERRIES, CO. DUBLIN.

K34 D799

Principal: Máire Ní Chróinín

Roll Number: 16333Q

Deputy Principal: Lynsey Dungan

RCN: 20118839

St. Patrick's Junior School Code of Behaviour

Introduction:

St. Patrick's Junior National School is a junior co-educational school under the patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. The Staff of this school have and will continue to have a lively regard for the improvement and general welfare of our pupils. We will treat them with kindness and consideration combined with firmness. This policy is written taking the particular needs and circumstances of our junior school into account.

Aim:

The aim of this policy is to create an ordered and orderly environment in which pupils can, through developing positive self-esteem and self-discipline, feel secure and make progress in all aspects of their development.

Principles:

- We recognise that a high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school and a high level of co-operation among staff and between staff, parents and pupils.
- We recognise that a variety of differences exist between children and the need to tolerate these differences.
- We recognise the need to ensure that the code is administered in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner.
- All members of staff adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school and "Catch the child being good".
 - With this in mind we have adopted the Discipline for Learning (DFL) approach.
- All pupils are taught our Anti-Bullying Code (set out in Appendix 1)

School Rules:

The rules of the school (listed in Appendix 2) are based on the principle of mutual respect and have been kept to a minimum.



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Code of Behaviour

All pupils and parents are expected to follow the Code of Behaviour, which parents sign on enrolment, in its entirety. This is a condition of acceptance of enrolment in our school. These rules are explained to the children in an age appropriate way, using our Discipline for Learning (DFL) motto: "kind hands, kind words, kind actions."

Unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with by means of a staged approach, as follows:

Stage 1

Unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with in line with our Discipline for Learning (DFL) approach. The principal may, in consultation with the class teacher, call in the parents at any time to discuss a child's behaviour.

Discipline for Learning (DFL):

The staff of St. Patrick's Junior School have worked together to draw up a policy that encourages good discipline and positive behaviour. Children are given the opportunity to talk about the agreed rewards and sanctions during SPHE lessons. **Sanctions are separate from rewards.** This means that a reward which has been given for good behaviour should not be removed from the child for subsequent unwanted behaviour. The unwanted behaviour gains a separate sanction.

Theme: Kindness

Motto: Kind words, kind hands, kind actions

Rewards

Each class teacher implements behavioural reward systems (i.e. Stars, Class Dojos, Reward Charts, etc.) based on kindness which result in being rewarded on an individual basis. These reward systems are all based on the school-wide Discipline for Learning process of:

- acquiring individual small rewards
- building up to a small obtainable goal which results in the extra reward of a sticker from the school Secretary
- building up to a larger obtainable goal from the school Principal which results in the reward of a "Lucky Dip"

Teachers will ensure that every child receives at least one "Lucky Dip" per academic year.

Good, kind behaviour is rewarded with stars/dojos which are stamped into children's stamp books or recorded on the class dojo screen at teacher's discretion. When twenty tokens have been earned the child goes to the secretary's office to be awarded a sticker. On completion of the stamp book the child gets a lucky dip and begins a new book. Teachers may also use the "Class Dojo" web-based classroom management system. A lucky dip may be earned for class dojos earned at the same rate as the "star" system. Teachers acknowledge continuous good behaviour and good decisions by all children and use every opportunity to notice and praise good behaviour and good decisions on the part of children who find such decisions/behaviour difficult. Some children may also benefit from personalised reward systems with more frequent rewards to encourage desired behaviours.

Sanctions Within Stage 1 / DFL

1. Verbal Reprimand:
 - Gain attention
 - Name unwanted behaviour
 - Refer to desired behaviour
2. Second Verbal Reprimand:
 - To child on his or her own
 - Unwanted behaviour referred to
 - Desired behaviour named
 - Reminder of consequences of further negative behaviour/what reaching next step of DFL would entail.
3. Thinking Chair:
 - Push child's chair back from table so the child is removed from the activity
 - Remain there until ready to discuss behaviour with teacher (rule of thumb: one minute for every year of life)
 - When ready – child apologises
4. Name on Whiteboard (Infants: for half day; 1st/2nd: for remainder of day):
 - Reminder of consequences of further negative behaviour/next step of DFL.
5. Thinking Chair in Another Class:
 - Remain for agreed time or until sent for by class teacher
 - This applies even at P.E. time

NB: Step 5 of the DFL has been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions.

6. Principal's Intervention
 - Reprimand and record of same
 - Parents notified

Except for number 6, each day is a new beginning for sanctions.

While sanctions are for undesirable behaviour, teachers will ensure they have positive interactions with the child after any sanctions imposed.

Stage 2

- If there are repeated instances of misbehaviour by a pupil, his/her parents will be informed by phone call, followed up, where necessary, by written communication.
- The parents will be asked to meet the Principal and the Chairperson of the Board of Management and the Class Teacher (where appropriate) at the school at a specified time to discuss the behaviour.
- The parents will be required to give a written undertaking that the child will behave in an acceptable manner in future. The child will also be required to give such an undertaking.

Stage 3

- Suspension and Expulsion from school is a sanction of last resort and will only take place in consultation with parents and in accordance with Department of Education and Skills guidelines.

Absences:

There is a very strong tradition of good attendance in St. Patrick's Junior School. However, we are anxious that parents be aware of the absolute necessity for regular punctual attendance at school. Every minute of every school day is important.

In the case of an absence, parents are required to fill in the appropriate **Return to School Parental Declaration**, including the reason(s) for the absence. This form must be completed before the child returns to school. Links to the form are sent to all parents before the beginning of the school year and at the start of each term.

Absences due to Term-Time Holidays:

Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child who is attending a recognised school is at school on every day that the school is open, unless there is a genuine reason for him or her not to attend (Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, S. 17). Only absences relating to activities organised by the school or in which the school is involved can be authorised by the principal (Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, Section 21 (9)). Therefore, the school cannot give "permission" for holiday absences during term time.

If a parent decides to take a child out of school for holidays, the principal will request that the parents to complete and sign the Holiday Notification Letter to say they are doing so and are aware that they are in breach of the Act in doing so. (Holiday Notification Letter at Appendix 3)

Sanctions in Yard

1. Verbal reprimand concerning unsuitable play
 - Charging/running
 - Unsafe behaviour
 - Rough play
 - Being mean or nasty
2. Stand at the wall for a limited period of time (up to 5 minutes)
3. Shadow the teacher

This policy was agreed and approved by the staff and Board of Management in 2022. It will be reviewed in 2025 or sooner if necessary.

Signed:


Very Rev. Fr. Melvyn Mullins
Chairperson, Board of Management.

Appendix 1

Anti-Bullying Code

Our Anti-Bullying Code will be displayed in each classroom.
Junior and Senior Infants will focus on number 1-3.
First and Second Classes will display 1-5.

Our Anti-Bullying Code

1. Be kind to everyone.
2. Play together and stay together
3. Friends mind each other
4. We call repeated unkind actions or words bullying – SAY “NO” TO BULLYING!
5. Tell someone you trust if you are bullied. Keep telling until someone helps you.

This is a telling school.

Appendix 2

School Rules

1. All pupils and parents are expected to follow the Code of Behaviour, which parents sign on enrolment, in its entirety. This is a condition of acceptance of enrolment. These rules are explained to the children in an age appropriate way, using our DFL motto: "kind hands, kind words, kind actions".
2. Children may only leave the school during school hours if collected by a parent or legal guardian. If the child is to be collected by any person other than a parent or legal guardian a request must be submitted via email to both the class level gmail address and admin@stps.ie naming the person who will collect the child.
3. All members of the school community (staff, pupils & parents) must be treated with respect.
4. All property within the school must be treated with respect.
5. All forms of aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour or play are forbidden.
6. No bad language is allowed.
7. School Uniform and school tracksuit must be worn on appropriate days.
8. No running allowed on the premises.
9. The school's healthy lunch policy must be followed.

Appendix 3

ST. PATRICK'S JNS, SKERRIES. HOLIDAY NOTIFICATION LETTER.

Child's name: _____

Class Teacher's name: _____

Class level (circle): JISI Rang 1 Rang 2

Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child who is attending a recognised school is at school on every day that the school is open, unless there is a genuine reason for him or her not to attend (Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, S. 17).

Only absences relating to activities organised by the school or in which the school is involved can be authorised by the principal (Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, Section 21 (9)).

Therefore, the school cannot give "permission" for holiday absences during term time.

We, the parents of the above named child are taking our child out of school for holidays from (date) _____ until (date) _____.

We fully understand that this is contrary to our legal obligation under the Education Welfare Act, 2000.

We further understand that should our child's absences reach or exceed 20 days in a year the school is obliged to report this to the Education Welfare Board/TÚSLA.

(Parent/Guardian)

(Parent/Guardian)

Where there are two guardians, both must sign.