

ST. MARY'S N.S.

MOUNTBELLEW

CO. GALWAY



CODE

OF

DISCIPLINE

St. Mary's N.S., Mountbellew

CODE OF DISCIPLINE

INTRODUCTION

This code of discipline was drawn up and approved through a process of consultation involving teacher, parents and Board of Management of St.Mary's N.S., Mountbellew. The code is monitored constantly and subject to review, with the approval of all parties concerned. It was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management at its meeting in March 2012

<h3>Fundamental Principles</h3>
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The school believes in maintaining high standards of discipline

- to ensure fair play for all.
- to sustain an environment which is conducive to effective learning and teaching.
- To maintain a safe environment for those who work in, or visit, the school.
- To cultivate good habits and appropriate behaviour among the pupils in the school, in their local community and into the world beyond.

Rather than highlighting the negative aspects of personal conduct in a list of "DO NOT" behaviours, the Code of Discipline in St. Mary's N.S., Mountbellew, concentrates on the positive: it is formulated in statements of the ideals, based on the Christian ethos of our school, which indicate the conduct we, parents teachers and Board of Management see as desirable in our school.

While we aspire to achieving these ideals either voluntarily, or at the persistent encouragement of other, the Code acknowledges that sanctions may be required in instances where, in the opinion of the supervising teacher, or some other delegated responsible adult, breaches of the Code's Guidelines have occurred.

School Rules for Pupils

Safety: For my own safety and that of others-

- a) I should be careful coming to and going from school.
- b) I should always walk while in the school building.
- c) I should remain seated at all times in class and while eating lunch.
- d) Games are not allowed in the school yard before school starts in the morning. I must stand in the yard and wait for the school bell to ring.
- e) Bring a note of explanation following absences.
- f) I should never leave the school grounds without the permission of the Principal.

Caring for myself

- a) I should respect myself and my property, always keeping my school bag, books and copies in good order.
- b) I should always be in school on time every morning.
- c) I should show respect for my school and be proud to wear the complete school uniform every day.
- d) I should always be aware of my personal cleanliness.
- e) I should always bring a sensible, nutritional lunch to school. Crisps, minerals, chocolate bars or chewing gum are not permitted.
- f) I should always do my best in school by listening carefully, working as hard as I can and by completing my homework.

Caring for others:

- a) I should be kind and respectful to teachers and fellow pupils by being mannerly and polite, by taking turns and by remaining silent and orderly in my class line.
- b) I should behave well in class so that my fellow pupils and I can learn.
- c) I should always keep my school clean by bringing unfinished food and drinks, cartons, wrappers, etc. home.
- d) I should show respect for the property of my fellow pupils, the school building and grounds.
- e) Be truthful and honest at all times.

Guidelines Towards Good Conduct

- Both within and outside the building, pupils should treat each with fairness and respect, regardless of age or ability.
- Pupils are expected to treat adults who play a role in school (teachers/school staff, parents, football/hurling coaches, visitors) with the proper respect due, and to comply with their legitimate directives.
- School and personal property must be regarded as if it were one's own, so that, appropriately used, it will continue to be of effective use for its intended life span.
- Good habits in personal behaviour should be developed and cultivated so that each one contributes to creating a pleasant environment for all - instances thereof include punctuality, cleanliness, appropriate language, tidiness etc.
- Every pupil has the right to the best possible instruction a school can provide and also the right to pursue a proper course of study unhindered. Each pupil is expected to co-operate with teachers and fellow pupils in creating and maintaining an environment that fully respects these rights. In addition, each pupil is expected to develop good study practices on his/her own part, and to strive to attain the optimum through whole hearted, honest endeavour.
- Where inappropriate behaviour has occurred, pupils are expected to be truthful and honest in admitting their part in it, whatever the seriousness or the implications may be.
- Should pupils be found to have persisted with inappropriate behaviour, they must be prepared to desist forthwith and/or accept the sanctions deemed warranted.

Implementation and Enforcement

In enforcing these standards of behaviour, parents, teachers and Board of Management will be mutually supportive. All bear the responsibility of drawing up the Code and share a determination to see it upheld.

In implementing and enforcing the Code, teachers will be unbiased, just and reasonable in treating every child equally. In issuing reprimands, the teachers will avoid ridicule, sarcasm or remarks likely to undermine a pupil's self-esteem.

As indicated in the *Fundamental Principles*, where the gravity of a single offence or the persistent repetition of inappropriate behaviour is such, sanctions will be applied. This may include a teacher, the principal or Chairperson of the Board of Management requesting a meeting with the parent/guardian of the child involved to discuss the disciplinary, or corrective, measures to be taken.

Discipline Strategies

(a) Praise may be given by means of any one of the following:

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval
- A comment in a pupil's exercise book
- A visit to another member of Staff or to the Principal for commendation.
- A word of praise in front of a group or class.
- A system of merit marks.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- A mention to parent, written or verbal communication.

(b) Disapproval of unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with as follows:-

(The nature of the behaviour will determine the strategy)

- Reasoning with pupils
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
- Prescribing extra work.
- Temporary separation from peers and/or loss of privileges.
- Referral to Principal/Deputy-Principal.
- Take note of unacceptable behaviour.
- Pupil fills in Behaviour Report & Parents sign it.
- Note to parents.
- Communication with Parents.
- Suspension/expulsion (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular 7/88).

Bullying

In their supervision of all school activities, teachers will strive to ensure that no pupil is victimised by another, either within the school confines or beyond. The school implements a separate **Anti-Bullying Policy** in relation to this behaviour.