



Code of Behaviour

Mission Statement

Bishop Shanahan N.S. is committed to providing a nurturing environment where each individual can develop self-esteem and a sense of their place in, and responsibility to, society. It aims to help pupils grow maturely towards self discipline and good behaviour.

We acknowledge that the normal wish of the child is to do the proper thing at all times. The school policy, therefore, calls for a positive approach to discipline. It is designed to appeal to the child's better nature and should encourage an acceptable standard of behaviour. The school places greater emphasis on reward than on sanctions, in the belief that it will, in the long run, yield the best results.

Home and school are intrinsically linked in the achievement of these standards and the school welcomes and encourages cooperation between parents and school staff.

The school policy emphasises Good Conduct, and holds Respect for one self, the family, school staff, the community at large and the environment at its core.

Rationale

A high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community and the school environment wishes to model this.

The school recognises that cooperation is essential between staff, pupils and parents.

Rules are kept to a minimum and are positively stated in terms of what the pupils should do and in age-appropriate language.

The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences.

All efforts will be made to match the curriculum to the abilities, aptitudes and interests of each pupil so as to reduce the likelihood of boredom, lack of interest or lack of progress.



Discipline is not intended to be harsh or repressive but rather seeks to help pupils recognise and overcome their own weaknesses.

Good behaviour will be acknowledged.

The Five Golden Rules

1. I will be kind in all I say and do.
2. I will listen in class and do my work well.
3. I will take care of my property and will respect what belongs to others.
4. I will share with others and will be generous to those in need.
5. I will be honest and truthful.

Discipline and Sanctions

Discipline within the classroom is the responsibility of the individual teacher and is largely a function of the relationship that exists between the teacher and the child. Children have to learn to accept responsibility for their actions, follow the rules and face the consequences of their own behaviour.

Positive Reinforcement

- Praise and acknowledgement
- Homework off passes
- Rewards
- Jobs of responsibility to enhance confidence and build self-esteem.

Whilst any form of misconduct is discouraged, incidents can occur in class or yard where sanctions are necessary. Every effort will be made by the class teacher or teacher on yard-duty to resolve the situation.

Outlined below are a number of strategies which may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour.

1. Reasoning with the pupil
2. Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
3. Temporary separation from peers or friends.



4. Loss of privileges.
5. Referral to Principal.
6. Communication with parents.
7. Suspension (Temporary)

In the rare event of a series of serious problems with a child, which were not resolved by the above mentioned steps, the suspension of the pupil would be instigated according to the agreement between I.N.T.O. and C.P.S.M.A.

Steps to be taken in dealing with reported incidents of misconduct

1. The teacher will endeavour to establish a clear and precise picture of what exactly occurred by interviewing all parties involved.
2. The Principal will be fully informed and, if necessary, take an active role in working towards a solution with all concerned.
3. When necessary, the parents of the pupil/pupils will be invited into the school.

Steps for Parents

If a parent feels the need to follow up on an incident which has occurred in the classroom, or in the yard, this procedure should be followed.

1. Assess the situation fully to make sure that you have all the facts.
2. Contact the school secretary to make an appointment with the class teacher and indicate, if possible, what it is in connection with.
3. Allow the teacher time to get all the facts also, so that there are no misunderstandings and, hopefully, the situation can be resolved promptly.
4. If the incident is not resolved to your satisfaction please contact the school secretary to make an appointment with the Principal and indicate, if possible, what it is in connection with.

Reviewed by the Board of Management 12/04/2010.