

# CODE OF BEHAVIOUR Scoil Naomh Pádraig

**Introduction:** *(The following Code of Behaviour was drawn up by the staff of Scoil Naomh Pádraig and will be reviewed and ratified at the start of each year.)*

## **The aims of the Code of Behaviour of Scoil Naomh Pádraig are:**

- To provide guidance for pupils, teachers and parents on behavioural expectations.
- 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, positive behaviour will be emphasised and 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. Pupils are expected to treat all adults and fellow pupils with respect and courtesy at all times. Behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to feel safe is unacceptable
2. Pupils are expected to show respect for all school property and to keep the school environment clean and litter free.
3. Pupils are expected to take pride in their appearance, to have all books and required materials and to be in the right place at the right time.
4. Pupils are expected to obey a teacher's instructions, to work to the best of their ability and to present assignments neatly.
5. Pupils are expected to 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.

## **Key Message**

**Respect for myself and respect for other**

## **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. If a parent suspects that their child is being bullied they should contact the school immediately.

## **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**

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment on a child's exercise book.
- A visit to the 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 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 (not being allowed on school trips or not being allowed treats)
- Detention during break.
- Communication with parents.
- Referral to Principal.
- Principal communicating with parents.
- Exclusion (Suspension or Expulsion) from school (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular and Education Welfare Act 2000).

Pupils will not be deprived of engagement in a Curricular Area, except on the grounds of health/safety

## **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. Communication with parents may be verbal or by letter depending on the circumstances.

For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension 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 and acted upon immediately.

Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed. 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 the NEWB Guidelines for a Code of Behaviour 2008, Rules for National Schools and the 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 NEWB Guidelines 2008, Rules 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. If a school is to function efficiently, it is necessary that rules and regulations are clearly stated and enforced consistently and fairly. The children with the teachers devise the school rules which are revised at the start of every school year

### **Before/After School**

Parents are reminded that the staff of the school does not accept responsibility for pupils before official opening time of 9.10 a.m. or after the official closing time of 2.50 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 and safe 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.
- Wear their school uniform.
- Listen to their teachers and act on instructions/advice.
- Show respect for all members of the school community.
- No aggressive physical contact with others is allowed
- 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.
- Ensure that children wear the proper school uniform.
- 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.

## **The School Yard**

The school yard is supervised during breaks. The teacher in charge deals with problems that arise during play. If a child misbehaves in the yard he/she can be sent to the staffroom/classroom area. This can happen for interfering in others games, rough play, going outside the play area etc.

For more serious misbehaviour such as name-calling or fighting, a suitable punishment is given which should be done at home. This will explain the nature of the misbehaviour and must be signed by a parent. If such serious misbehaviour should persist it may warrant more stern punishment and parental involvement.

If a child physically attacks someone, their parent will be sent for and the child will be immediately taken home.

For very serious misbehaviour parents will be asked to meet with the Principal initially and subsequently, if deemed necessary, with the Board of Management.

**While the emphasis in the school is on promoting good behaviour through positive reinforcement, it is nonetheless necessary that more serious matters are dealt with immediately and effectively to ensure the continued safety and happiness of all.**

---

-----

# Scoil Naomh Pádraig

## Síniú Tuismitheora

*Please sign the section/sections below as necessary and return to the school.*

This code was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Pádraig , An Chloch Bhreac on \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson BOM**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Principal**

### **1 - 6<sup>th</sup> Classes:**

I have read the Code of Behaviour for Scoil Naomh Pádraig, An Chloch Bhreac and I agree to abide by it.

Signed Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that my child above has read the Code of Behaviour for Scoil Naomh Pádraig.

**Parents Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Infant Classes:**

I have read and explained the Code of Behaviour for Scoil Naomh Pádraig, An Chloch Bhreac to my child/children; Childs Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

**& they have agreed to abide by it.**

**Parents Signature:**

\_\_\_\_\_

I have been made aware that the Board of Management have ratified the following policies; Bullying, Health & Safety, Attendance ,Critical Incident & Child Protection and these and other school policies are available on the school website; [www.scoilnaomhpadraig.com](http://www.scoilnaomhpadraig.com)

**Parents Signature:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**If for any reason you cannot access the above policies online please request a hard copy from the school.**

## *School Rules ;*

### *Have respect for yourself and for others*

- **Have good manners and be nice to everyone.**
- **Don't tease or call others names in a way that hurts their feelings.**
- **Include everyone in games.**
- **Mind you own personal belongings**
- **No fighting, shouting or hitting people – ever.**
- **Do not leave school premises without permission.**
- **Keep the school clean and tidy and respect school property.**
- **No bullying**
- **If we think someone is being bullied we must tell an adult**
- **No chewing gum or tippex.**
- **Walk (don't run) in the hallway or anywhere inside the school.**
- **Bring healthy lunches to school; no junk food. A small treat is allowed on Fridays.**  
**No fizzy drinks allowed.**
- **Always do our homework.**
- **Listen to one another and to the teacher.**
- **Always use appropriate language; no bad words.**
- **Do not disrupt the class or others. Work quietly without messing.**
- **Wear our uniforms every day.**
- **We should always try to do our best with our work.**
- **Do not bring our mobile phones to school.**
- **Do not wear football boots inside.**
- **Stay away from the horses**
- **No horrible notes or pictures about others.**
- **Respect others property, no hiding or writing /drawing on it.**
- **Always wait your turn, no pushing or shoving.**
- **Speak Gaeilge in the classroom and to the teachers.**
- **Put everything back in the shed and keep the sheds clean and tidy.**