

# **St. Patrick's National School**

Ughtyneill, Moynalty, Kells, Co. Meath A82 VW95

Phone No: 046-9244704

E-mail: [secretary@ughtyneillns.com](mailto:secretary@ughtyneillns.com)

## **Code of Behaviour**

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## Introduction

This policy was revised in Autumn 2020 and in the context of the National Educational Welfare Board's Guidelines for 'Developing a Code of Behaviour'. This policy was drawn up by the Principal in collaboration with all staff members and Board of Management.

## School Ethos and Vision

St. Patrick's National School is a Catholic, co-educational primary school which aims to create happy, positive, caring and trusting relationships.

We acknowledge and totally support the role of partnership in this process; pupils, parents, staff and the wider community.

We aim to develop the emotional, moral, social and spiritual growth together with the intellectual, physical, creative and religious development of each child under the patronage of the Bishop of Meath and the Catholic Church.

In our school we create a positive attitude to education.

St. Patrick's National School models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The school provides Religious Education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith.

## Expectations/Aims of Code of Discipline

The aim of this Code of Behaviour is to allow for an environment that promotes teaching and learning in a calm, ordered, respectful context, ensuring that the individuality of each child is accommodated while acknowledging the right of each child to education in a calm, safe and happy environment.

The staff, ancillary staff, Board of Management and the whole parent body of the school will adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school

A high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school and a high level of co-operation between staff, pupils and parents.

Teachers, parents and pupils are expected to respect the needs of others.

## Strategies to Promote a Positive School Environment

Good Manners, respect and courtesy promote a happy school environment.

- Greeting each other in the morning.
- Addressing each other with respect.
- Waiting your turn.
- Holding doors open for others
- Inquiring about the welfare of others.
- Making positive comments. (Verbal and written)
- Accepting the appearance and characteristics of others.

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- Offering help and assistance when occasion arises
- Attempting to perceive and appreciate others' point of view.
- Modeling good behaviour and manners for others to imitate.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

Everyone in St. Patrick's National School is responsible for the promotion of a positive school environment. The primary responsibility is on the teaching staff to develop a positive school atmosphere. Staff in their position as role models in the school have a crucial role in modeling good practice of manners, respect for others and their needs, courtesy, positive and reaffirming interpersonal actions.

Communicating with parents is central to maintaining a positive approach to dealing with children. A high level of co-operation and open communication is seen as an important factor encouraging positive behaviour in the school. Structures and channels designed to maintain a high level of communication among staff and between staff, pupils and parents have been established and are being reviewed regularly.

Parents are encouraged to talk in confidence to teachers about any significant developments in a child's life (in the past or present), which may affect the child's behaviour.

The following methods of communication are available within the school:

- Informal/formal communication between parents and teachers
- Through children's homework journal (infants do not have a homework journal, please check bags for notes)
- Letters/notes from school to home and from home to school
- Email communication with the school
- TextaParent service.

## **Content of School Rules**

School rules in St. Patrick's National School allow for a happy environment which is conducive to good learning and teaching. Rules in the school are kept to a minimum, and are positively stated.

### **RESPECT:**

"Show and expect respect from everyone in the school"

### **TRY:**

"Always do your best in all that you do"

### **MOVE:**

"Always move in a way that ensures that everyone is safe"

### **TALK:**

"Talk in the right way at the right time"

### **PLAY:**

Play so everyone is included, everyone is safe"

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It is the responsibility of all staff members to promote these school rules in the school, the classroom, on the yard and in outside school activities.

## **School Routines:**

### **Time:**

School starts at 8:50am and finishes at 2:30pm. (1:30pm for infant classes)

Pupils and Staff are expected to be punctual.

Pupils are expected to remain on school premises during school hours except with the written/verbal permission of parents or guardians.

### **Uniform:**

Pupils are expected to wear school uniform ( suitable clothes on P.E. days)

### **Courtesy:**

Staff, pupils and visitors are expected to be courteous and respectful at all times.

### **Tidiness:**

The school environment is to be kept tidy and clean.

### **Lunch:**

Pupils are encouraged to eat healthy lunches.

Pupils are allowed to eat in the classroom prior to their lunch playtime.

Treats are allowed on Fridays.

### **Talk:**

Pupils are expected to work and conduct themselves at different levels at different times during classroom and school activities.

Silent.....Whisper.....Talk

### **Walk:**

Pupils are expected to walk quietly and safely in the classroom and corridor and when entering and exiting school building.

### **Home Time:**

Pupils are to leave school in an orderly fashion.

### **Belongings:**

Pupils are responsible for their own school bags/books/coats and other belongings.

### **Homework:**

Pupils are required to complete set homework with due care.

## **Strategies to Promote Good Behaviour, Progress and Effort**

St. Patrick's National School utilises a variety of strategies to promote good behaviour and acknowledge progress and effort.

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval

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- A comment in child's exercise copy or homework journal
- A visit to another member of staff or principal for commendation
- A word of praise in front of a group or class.
- A system of merit marks.
- Student of the Month Award at school Assembly
- Visiting other classrooms to display good work, achievement of special effort.
- School Newsletter to parents reflects pupils' achievements and efforts.
- School Website highlights pupils' academic achievement and academic work.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege
- A mention to parent, written or verbal communication

Copies of the Code of Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy will be presented to all existing and new parents.

## Consequences of Unacceptable Behaviour

The following procedures are in place to deal with unacceptable behaviour.

1. Reasoning with the pupil
2. Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
3. Temporary separation from peers.(five to ten minutes initially – longer periods subsequently)
4. Loss of privileges
5. Prescribing extra work
6. Referral to Principal.
7. Formal recording by teacher
8. Communication with parents.
9. Detention at break time.
10. Suspension.
11. Expulsion.

## Children with Special Needs

All children are required to comply with the code of behaviour. However the school recognises that children with special needs may require assistance in understanding certain rules. Specialised behaviour plans will be put in place in consultation with parents and the class teacher, learning support/ resource teacher, and or principal will work closely with home to ensure that optimal support is given. Cognitive development will be taken into account at all times. Professional advice from psychological assessments will be invaluable.

The children in the class or school may be taught strategies to assist a pupil with special needs adhere to the rules and thus provide peer support. This will be done in a supportive and safe way, acknowledging and respecting the difference in all individuals.

## Bullying / Harassment:

This Code of Behaviour should be viewed and read in conjunction with the school policy on 'Anti-Bullying'.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairperson of the Board of Management)

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Principal )

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of next review: Autumn 2022