

APPENDIX (3)

Code of Behaviour

The Code of Behaviour for Scoil Dean Cussen was reviewed in Spring 2010 with the aid of "Developing a Code of Behaviour" – Guidelines for Schools and taking account of the views of staff, parents and pupils.

Aims and Objectives

The school's code of discipline reflects the Christian values promoted within the school, with an emphasis on forgiveness, reconciliation, new beginnings and hope. Teachers are sensitive to the needs and particular circumstances of the pupils. Our school aspires to create a safe happy environment, where all the children can reach their full potential through the encouragement and affirmation of positive behaviour. With this in mind we hope:

- ~ 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.
1. In devising the code, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of Scoil Dean Cussen N.S. The aim is to ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated while acknowledging the right of each child to education in a relatively disruption free environment.
 2. Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school. The code offers a framework within, which teachers utilize positive techniques of motivation and encouragement.
 3. Scoil Dean Cussen N.S. places greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions in the belief that this will, in the long run, give the best results and leads to better self-discipline.
 4. Scoil Dean Cussen N.S. recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
 5. It is agreed 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, pupils and parents.
 6. Rules are being kept to a minimum and are positively stated in terms of what pupils should do.

7. All efforts will be made to match the curriculum to the abilities, aptitudes and interests of each pupil. This should help to reduce boredom, lack of interest and lack of progress.
8. The overall responsibility for discipline within Scoil Dean Cussen N.S. rests with the principal. Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within his/her classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good order within the school premises. A pupil will be referred to the Principal for serious breaches of discipline and for repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour.

General Guidelines for Positive Behaviour

1. Pupils are expected to treat staff, their fellow pupils and visitors with respect and courtesy at all times. It is expected that children will not use unacceptable behaviour and will not bully others.
2. School opens for pupils at 9.10a.m. – officially ending for Infants at 2.10p.m. and all other pupils at 3.10p.m. School insurance only covers pupils between these times. Punctuality is of prime importance.
3. Every absence of a child must be accounted for either by forwarding a note or by making contact with the school.
4. If a child is missing from school or needs a half-day, a note is required.
5. Any infectious illness should be notified to the school immediately. Sick children should not be in school. administration of prescribed medication can only be undertaken by teachers after a cover note from parents and with permission from the Board of Management.
6. Children's clothes and other personal property such as school books, copies etc. should be labelled.
7. Pupils must respect all school property and keep the school environment clean and litter free.
8. All teachers advocate a healthy lunch.

Strategies and affirming Positive Behaviour

1. A quiet word or gesture to show approval
2. A comment on a child's exercise book
3. A visit to another class or Principal for commendation
4. Praise in front of the class group
5. Individual class merit awards, points awards or award stamps
6. Delegating some special responsibility or privilege
7. Written or verbal communication with parent
8. Graded reward system: Stars leading to Certificates
9. Use of: "Positive Behaviour" cards to inform parents of good behaviour
10. Positive mention by Principal on the Intercom.

The following strategies may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour

1. Reasoning with the pupil
2. Verbal reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
3. Temporary separation from peers within class or in yard and/or temporary removal to another class
4. Prescribing extra work
5. Loss of privileges
6. Use of yellow and red cards to communicate misdemeanours to parents.
7. Detention on a Friday. Reason for this to be communicated to parents in advance by means of yellow card which is signed by parents and return to the school
8. Communication with parents
9. Referral to Principal
10. Principal communicating with parents
11. 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)
12. Pupils will not be deprived of engagement in a Curricular Area, except on the grounds of health/safety. Communication with parents will be verbal or by letter, depending on circumstances. The parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case.

For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension may be considered. Parents concerned will be invited 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. Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents will be requested in writing to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson and the principal. If the parents do not give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future, the pupil may be suspended for a period. 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 medical information. Suspension, where it is necessary to ensure that order and discipline are maintained and to secure the safety of the pupils, the Board may authorize 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 Rules for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.