

Rathcormac National School,
Drumcliffe,
Co. Sligo.
F91 NX21



Principal
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Code of Behaviour

Relationship to the Characteristic Spirit of the School:

Our school aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of each individual pupil; intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and other people. We take great pride in promoting our Christian values of respect, honesty, kindness and gentleness and this underpins our Code of Behaviour.

Rationale:

To provide a secure, safe and positive learning environment in our school for the whole school community.

Aims:

In devising the code, consideration has to be given to the particular needs and circumstances of this school. The aim is to create an ordered and orderly environment in which pupils can, through developing self-discipline, feel secure and make progress in all aspects of their development through promoting positive behaviour. Rathcormac N.S. is an inclusive school (see Enrolment Policy) and all pupils are subject to the Code of Behaviour.

We aim;

- To help create a positive learning environment for the benefit of all.
- To encourage the pupils to become self-disciplined.
- To encourage mutual respect between pupils, staff, parents and school management, and any visitors to our school.
- To encourage pupils to respect themselves and the rights of others.
- To instil in pupils a pride in their school and to respect school property.
- To ensure that the system of rules, rewards and sanctions are respected and implemented in a fair and consistent manner throughout the school.
- To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the school community.

Principles:

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

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, parents and pupils.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the code of behaviour is implemented in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner.

Strategies for Managing Behaviour:

- Children will have an input in devising classroom rules.
- Expected behaviour will be communicated to pupils on a regular basis both within class and at whole school assemblies.
- Reward systems are in place both in the classroom and in the school for affirmation of positive behaviour.
- An Anti-Bullying Policy is implemented in the school.
- Parents and children are provided with a copy of the school's Code of Behaviour which is read and signed to indicate acceptance.
- A Buddy System works in the school yard each day to facilitate positive behaviour on the yard.
- Children are involved and are encouraged to take responsibility for promoting positive behaviour throughout the school.
- Adequate supervision is provided by staff at all times to promote positive behaviour throughout the school.
- Staff model positive behaviour through their interaction with children and each other.
- Clear guidelines and sanctions are in place in the event of misbehaviour.

School rules:

Safety: For my own safety and that of others-

- I should be careful coming to and going from school.
- I should always walk while in the school building.
- I should remain seated at all times in class and while eating lunch. Lunch is generally eaten in the classroom from 12.30 – 12.40.
- I should always show respect for my fellow pupils.
- I should bring a note of explanation following absences and requiring permission to stay in at breaks (if required). Sick children should not be sent to school.
- I should never leave the school grounds without the permission of the Principal or designate.

Caring for myself:

- I should respect myself and my property, always keeping my school bag, books and copies in good order. (Uniforms and all other property should be labelled)

- I should always be in school before the bell rings at 9.20a.m.
- I should show respect for my school.
- I must wear the correct school uniform at all times.
- I should always be aware of my personal cleanliness. In the interest of hygiene and safety long hair should be tied back, jewellery should be kept to a minimum (e.g. watches, studded earrings.) Make-up is not permitted, nor are aerosols.
- I should always bring a sensible, nutritional lunch to school. Crisps, fizzy drinks and chewing gum are not permitted.
- 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:

- 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.
- I should behave well in class so that my fellow pupils and I can learn.
- I should always keep my school clean. I should show respect for the property of my fellow pupils, the school building and grounds.
- Be truthful and honest at all times.
- I must not have a mobile phone in school.
- It is not permitted to distribute party invitations in school.

Bullying:

Bullying is always unacceptable. I should never bully others. I do not have to accept someone bullying me and if it happens I should tell my parents and my teacher. (see Anti-Bullying Policy).

Clár ama na Scoile

Official School Day:	9.20 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.
School Begins:	9.30 a.m.
School Closes: Junior Infants	2.00 p.m.
Senior Infants	2.00 p.m.
Other Classes	3.00 p.m.

Children should not be on the school premises before 9.00 a.m. and all children should have left the school grounds by 3.15 p.m. The Board of Management does not accept responsibility for persons on the premises outside of these times.

Homework

It is the policy of the school to assign homework on a regular basis. Parents are strongly advised to take an active interest in their child's homework. (and ensure that it is completed).

Homework is not normally assigned at weekends. (see Homework Policy)

Positive Behaviour is recognised and rewarded through the following strategies:

- 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.
- Commendation at Assembly.
- A system of merit marks.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- A mention to parent, written or verbal communication.
- Homework Pass.
- Class reward.

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.
- Communication with parents.
- Temporary separation from peers.
- Loss of privileges, (including representing the school)
- Referral to Principal.
- Note to parents, to be signed by parents.
- Record keeping.
- Written recount by pupil, to be signed by parents.
- Exclusion from school activities (e.g. Sports Day, School Tours, School Performances)
- Suspension/expulsion (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular 7/88).

Procedures:

The degree of misdemeanours i.e. minor, serious or gross, will be judged by the teachers and/or principal based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity/frequency of such misdemeanours, as follows:

Examples of minor misdemeanours:

- Interrupting class work .
- Arriving late for school.
- Running in school building.
- Talking in class line.
- Leaving seat without permission.
- Placing unfinished food/drink cartons in class bin.
- Leaving litter around school.
- Being discourteous/unmannerly.
- Not completing homework without good reason.
- Not having homework signed by a parent.
- Endangering self/fellow pupils in the school yard at break time.

Examples of steps to be taken by teachers when dealing with minor misdemeanours:

- Verbal reprimand.
- Reasoning with pupil.
- Recording instance of yard misbehaviour in yard book.

Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with regular occurrences of minor misdemeanours

Phase 1 (within the classroom)

- Write story of what happened **Or** one copy of school rules **Or** relevant rule to upper limit of 20 times—all to be signed by parent.
- Note in homework journal to be signed by parent.
- Temporary separation from peers.
- Sending to another teacher.
- Denial of participation in some class activity.
- Warning to pupils whose name appears in yard book more than three times.
- Note to parents concerning further misbehaviour in yard.
- [Misbehaviour in yard consists of any action that puts the safety of self/other pupil at risk]

Phase 2:

- Send to principal.
- Class teacher meets one/both parents.
- Principal meets one/both parents concerning behaviour in yard.

Examples of serious misdemeanours

- Constant disruption in class.
- Telling lies.
- Stealing.
- Damaging other pupil's property.
- Failure to wear the correct School Uniform.
- Bullying.
- Insolence towards a staff member.
- Frequenting school premises after school hours without appropriate permission.
- Leaving school premises during school day without appropriate permission.
- Using unacceptable language.
- Bringing weapons to school.
- Deliberately injuring a fellow pupil.

Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with serious misdemeanours:

- Send to Principal
- Principal sends note in to be signed by parent
- Principal meets with one/both parents
- Chairperson of Board of Management informed and parents requested to meet with Chairperson and Principal

Examples of Gross Misdemeanours:

- Setting fire/malicious damage to school property.
- Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a staff member/pupil.

Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with gross misdemeanours:

- Chairperson/Principal to sanction immediate suspension pending discussion with parents
- Expulsion will be considered in an extreme case in accordance with Rule 130 (6) i.e.
- “No pupil can be struck off the rolls for breaches of discipline without prior consent of patron and until alternative arrangements are made for enrolment of pupil at another suitable school in the locality”.

It should be noted that these lists consist of examples only: It is not meant to be a totally comprehensive list of misdemeanours and procedural steps.

Communication:

This policy will be made available to the parents on enrolment, and will be posted on the school blog as it is reviewed.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed as and when necessary.

Ratification:

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management of Rathcormac N.S.

Signed _____ Date _____
John McAteer. (Chairperson)

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Rathcormac Golden Rules

1. I will be kind and gentle.
2. I will be careful.
3. I will be polite to everyone.
4. I will care for all property.
5. I will be truthful and honest.
6. I will always do my best in school.
7. I will walk when in the school building.