

Scoil an Rátha Mhóir

Scéim Smachta Scoile



The aims of the Code of Behaviour of our school are:

- 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.
- To provide guidance for pupils, teachers and parents on behavioural expectations.
- To provide for the effective and safe operation of the school.

Punctuality:

The school is open to receive pupils at 9.10 am. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before this time. Class officially start at 9.30 am. No pupil should arrive later than 9.20 am. Junior and Senior Infants remain in school until 2 pm when parents should collect them. 3pm is the finishing time for all other classes. The school cannot accept responsibility for children after 3pm. Children who leave school early to attend appointments with doctors etc. should bring a note from their parents. Teachers who wish to take pupils outside school grounds (e.g. on a nature walk) must have written permission from parent/guardian.

Homework:

Homework is an integral part of schoolwork. Parents should ensure “that homework is allocated due time and effort by the child” (Department of Education Circular 20/90)

Dress:

Pupils are expected to be neat and clean with tidy hair. The school uniform consists of navy crested tracksuit pants, navy school shorts, wine jumper and grey/polo shirt. Runners can be worn but must be either grey, navy or black.

Behaviour:

Students are expected at all times to show respect for themselves, their fellow students and for all staff, both teaching and non-teaching. In all matters pertaining to the operation of the school, pupils must respect and obey all directions given to them by staff. Children are expected to act, speak and move in a mannerly fashion during the school day. Pushing, shouting, boisterous play, bullying, offensive language or any other unbecoming behaviour is strictly forbidden. Children should approach and board the bus in an orderly manner. Chewing gum, smoking and make-up are forbidden. The classroom and schoolyard should be tidy, with all litter deposited in bins. Parents will, at the discretion of the Board of Management, be required to compensate the school for damage caused by the children to buildings, furniture, fitting, etc.

The following may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour

- The class teacher reason with the pupil
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
- Temporary separation from peers, friends and others
- Loss of privilege (e.g. no art/ PE)
- Detention during break (supervised)
- Prescribed additional meaningful work
- Referral to principal, who will if behaviour persists contact parents

When there are 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 may be suspended for a temporary period. This suspension will be in accordance with the terms of rule 130(5) of the rules of national schools.

Rules:

“When the Board of Management deems it necessary to make provisions in the code of discipline to deal with continuously disruptive pupils or with a serious

breach of discipline, by authorising the chairperson or principal to exclude a pupil or pupils from school, the maximum initial period of such exclusions is three days” A special decision of the Board of Management is necessary to authorise a further period of exclusion of up to maximum of 10 school days to allow for consultation with the pupils’ parent or guardian. In exceptional circumstances the Board of Management may authorise a further period of exclusion in order to enable the matter to be reviewed.

Parent- Teacher contact:

Parents are encouraged to discuss their children’s progress with the relevant class teachers. They will be given a formal opportunity to do this once a year. In line with the terms of Department of Education, the following is now school policy. “Parents who wish to have consultation with a class teacher should be encouraged to make a prior appointment with the relevant teacher. In urgent cases, when a pre-arranged appointment is not appropriate. Parents should be encouraged to report in the first instance to the school principal. For child protection reasons, the practice of parents approaching classrooms directly during teaching time is discouraged. Specifically access to teachers should be on an ‘appointment only’ basis, where the circumstances of a meeting are likely to provoke a confrontation.

Absenteeism and Welfare Act:

A child’s absence needs to be notified to teacher or principal by 10am either via note, if known in advance, or via text/email. Every absence of a child must be accounted for, giving the reason for the absence also. If a child wishes to leave school early a written note must be given to the class teacher. A text or email will also suffice.

To comply with requirements of the Welfare act and in keeping with the Code of Discipline of the school, anyone who is absent for more than 20 days, in the school year is notified to the National Educational Welfare Board of TUSLA.

Medicines:

Only the principal will administer prescribed medicines when written permission has been received from the parents. In her absence, they will be administered by the acting principal.

Lunch:

Children will be encouraged to bring a proper lunch to school in accordance with our Healthy Eating policy.

Banned Items:

- Correction fluids (e.g tippex)
- Mobile phones – must be handed up to the class teacher if children need phones for after school
- Hand held electronic games or any device that can record, video, photograph or message others.

If parents/ guardians need to contact children, they may do so by ringing the school at 087 2247529/02820135 or emailing at

rathnationalsc@gmail.com