

Howth Primary School 18080A

Scoil Mhuire Beann Eadair



Code of Behaviour,
Conduct & Discipline

INTRODUCTION

Howth Primary School places the greatest emphasis on a positive approach to encouraging good behaviour, based mainly on positive techniques of motivation, praise and encouragement. The aim of this code is to ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated while also acknowledging the right of each child to education in a relatively disruption-free environment. Good discipline requires a high level of co-operation and communication between staff - pupils and parents. Every effort will be made to foster this co-operation.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHARACTERISTIC SPIRIT OF THE SCHOOL

The ethos of Howth Primary School is to create a happy learning atmosphere in which each student will feel secure and free from psychological, social, verbal and physical danger. To ensure this the school endeavours to provide a caring, stimulating and healthy environment throughout the whole school

GENERAL AIMS

1. The efficient operation of the school.
2. To create an orderly, happy and stimulating learning environment in the classroom.
3. To maintain good order in the school and in the playground.
4. To develop good self-discipline in the pupils based on consideration, respect and tolerance for others.

SCHOOL RULES

The rules are kept to a minimum and are at all times devised with the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community in mind. The rules are positively stated in terms of what pupils **should** do :

- * Respect and consideration for others forms the basis for our code of good behaviour.
- * Pupils should take care at all times not to hurt or injure themselves or others.
- * Pupils should strive towards a high level of good manners and courtesy to fellow pupils teachers and visitors. Polite language is expected.
- * In the interest of Safety and Good Order pupils should comply with the rules designed for their collective well being. These rules are communicated to them

- and reinforced as the need arises.
- * School and other persons property and equipment will be treated with respect.
 - * In the playground directions given by the supervising teacher are to be followed implicitly
 - * Older children should, as far as practicable, protect and care for younger children.
 - * Children should attend school punctually and regularly, and must stay on school premises for the duration of the school day. They may only leave with the express permission of class teacher or Principal. This will normally only be given on a written request from parent.
 - * A note should be sent to the school to explain absences.
 - * Children should pay attention to neat dress and good personal hygiene. Full school uniform must be worn (unless alternative arrangements have been authorised by class teacher/principal, i.e. school outing etc.). Jewellery should be kept to a minimum and not cause risk of personal injury.
 - * Class assignments and homework should be completed to the best of a pupil's ability.
- All the above rules are designed in the best interest and safety of all pupils in the school so that they may play and learn in a happy, healthy environment.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The following strategies may be used to encourage good, and discourage unacceptable behaviour :

- Encouragement and Praise
- Reward for Effort
- Reasoning with pupil
- Verbal Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
- Temporary separation from peers
- Prescribing additional work
- Loss of Privileges
- Use of in-school penalties
- Referral to Principal
- Communication with parents
- Individual Behaviour Modification programme (tailored to the particular needs of the pupil) where appropriate
- Use of detention
- Outside professional help
- Anticipated use of suspension
- Referral to Board of Management
- Suspension

The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the principal and with the relevant special duties post holder. 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.

At the discretion of the class teacher a pupil may be referred to the principal for serious breaches of discipline, disruptive behaviour or repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour.

Strategies for dealing with Pupils with extremely difficult behavioural problems

In the case of a pupil with an extremely difficult behavioural problem or where a pupil presents a real threat to the safety of another pupil or member of staff the following strategies shall apply:

1. Removal of offender from area of difficulty, e.g. class, playground etc.
2. Parent/guardian to be contacted immediately and requested to remove offending pupil
3. School will receive an acknowledgement that behaviour was unacceptable and an undertaking that it will not be repeated
4. Behaviour Modification plan (where appropriate)
5. Parent/guardian may be put on notice that suspension will be a real possibility if offending behaviour continues

Teachers will use disciplinary procedures sensibly and flexibly taking into account the individual circumstances and the seriousness of the misbehaviour, abiding by the principles of justice and fair play and Department of Education & Skills Guidelines. It is very important that children understand that they have rights. It is essential that they also understand that with these rights come responsibilities. It is one of the aims of the school to produce responsible pupils.

Where a pupil complains that he/she has been unfairly treated it should first be taken up with the teacher concerned where in the vast majority of cases the problem is righted. If however, it is not, then parents may request Principal to intervene.

Teachers should keep a written record of all instances of serious misbehaviour as well as a record of improvements in the behaviour of disruptive pupils.

The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences wherever it is possible within the confines of larger classes.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of parent(s): Discussion reinforcement of the school's Code of Behaviour, Conduct & Discipline with child(ren)

Role of teachers: Discussion / Reinforcement/ Review of Policy

Role of Principal: The Principal will monitor the effectiveness of the policy on a regular basis and communicate with the In-School Management Team/Parents Association/Board of Management as necessary

Role of Special Duties Post Holder (Post 1):

Post Holder will monitor and co-ordinate discipline in liaison with the Principal and other members of staff

Timeframe for Implementation & Review

The original policy was ratified in September 2004. It is reviewed on a regular basis as deemed necessary.

Responsibility for Review

Involved in this review will be the Principal, In-School Management Team, teachers, parents and Board of Management.

Review Dates:

Date: **08/02/2010**

Reviewed : **20/03/2012**

Reviewed : **26/02/2014**

Reviewed :