

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



& Cill Chluana Parish Nursery

123 Granemore Road
Tassagh
Co. Armagh
BT60 2NJ

To provide a caring and happy environment in which the potential of every child is realised.

Tel: 028 3753 8018

Fax: 028 3753 8018

Principal: Mr. Patrick Mallon

email: pmallon557@c2kni.net

Saint Mary's Primary School

Positive Behaviour and Discipline Policy

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Updated April 2012

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Positive Behaviour / Discipline Policy

Introduction

The aim of our school is to provide a working, caring and happy environment in which the potential of every child is realised.

We aim to achieve discipline in the school by positive rather than negative means with the support of the parents. The school is aware that:

³⁵/₁₇ Every child is an important human person entrusted to us by parents and society and worthy of unconditional respect for his/her dignity.

³⁵/₁₇ Every teacher is an important person and professional entrusted with the education and care of our children and entitled to the support and respect of parents, school management and society.

The need for discipline

Good discipline practices create the conditions for effective learning and help to develop in children responsible attitudes and values for life. Discipline is about relationships within a classroom and within a school. These relationships

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are principally between teacher and pupils but also include the interaction of the whole school community.

Aims of discipline

Our school discipline policy is based on the school's Christian values and beliefs, and a concern for the safety and well-being of all our school community.

- ³⁵/₁₇ We aim to provide a supportive environment which will foster the growth and development of caring and responsible pupils.
- ³⁵/₁₇ We aim to create a well-ordered school in which pupils can learn effectively.
- ³⁵/₁₇ We aim to develop in our pupils a sense of self-worth and self-control.
- ³⁵/₁₇ We expect all our school community to act in a positive and caring way towards each other.

Parents And Discipline

The maintaining of discipline is shared by the school and the parents. Parental influence can be greater than that of the school so parental acceptance of the school's expectations and active co-operation with the staff is absolutely essential if any accepted standard of discipline is to be achieved.

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We seek the co-operation of parents in maintaining high standards of pupil attendance, punctuality, personal appearance, the wearing of school uniform, caring for learning materials, particularly those which belong to the school and which may be sent home and the supervision of homework. A note is required when homework has not been done and giving reason for an absence.

Parents remain the greatest influence on their children and we hope, therefore, that they will actively promote the general policy and rules of discipline as set down by the school.

Positive Discipline

In order to ensure that positive behaviour can be fostered the school will

- ❖ Provide a range of strategies to facilitate effective teaching and learning.
- ❖ Ensure that the curriculum is well organised so that teachers can plan for effective teaching.
- ❖ Ensure that the childrens' learning environment is conducive to learning.
- ❖ Ensure that pupils are valued as individuals and encouraged in their learning and in their physical and social development.

Emphasis is on the positive approach of praise and encouragement as used in our reward system of stars/good marks throughout the school.

These are rewarded for

- good and/or improved behaviour.
- good and/or improved standards of work.
- showing respect for others.

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Classroom Discipline

Good discipline enables effective learning to take place by

- ³⁵₁₇ the participation of each child in programmes matched to his/her ability.
- ³⁵₁₇ recognising and encouraging each child's individuality.
- ³⁵₁₇ the use of positive language to communicate expectations and feedback to pupils.
- ³⁵₁₇ giving regular encouragement and praise to all pupils.
- ³⁵₁₇ highlighting acceptable behaviour if a child tends to be disruptive.
- ³⁵₁₇ formulating classroom rules with the children.
- ³⁵₁₇ use of Smiley Faces and or Good Marks where appropriate.
- ³⁵₁₇ plaque system awarded monthly for P1-7 pupils
- ³⁵₁₇ a visit to a colleague and/or the Principal for commendation.
- ³⁵₁₇ regular visits by Principal to classes to encourage and praise.

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School Rules

In order to achieve the above we have some rules which we will implement fairly and consistently.

General

- ³⁵/₁₇ To arrive punctually for school. School begins at 9.15 a.m. Children should arrive between 9.00 and 9.10 a.m.
- ³⁵/₁₇ To work as hard as they can in class.
- ³⁵/₁₇ To respect the views, rights and property of others and behave safely in and out of class.
- ³⁵/₁₇ To treat each other with respect.
- ³⁵/₁₇ To speak politely to each other and to staff in the school.
- ³⁵/₁₇ To play fairly and to play for enjoyment.
- ³⁵/₁₇ To bring their dinner money weekly. Money should be brought in on Friday in an envelope marked with the child's name.
- ³⁵/₁₇ To wear school uniform as outlined in the School Prospectus.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Mobile phones are not allowed.

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Safety

- ³⁵/₁₇ When coming to school or going home, the bus driver must be obeyed at all times.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Children should line up in an orderly manner when coming in for class in the morning, after break and after lunch.
- ³⁵/₁₇ No child may leave the school premises for any purpose during the school day without permission from the principal or class teacher and a letter from parents.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Pupils going to a different destination by bus must bring a letter to inform the teachers and bus driver.
- ³⁵/₁₇ There should be no boisterous behaviour inside the school or on the bus.

Use of Building

- ³⁵/₁₇ Children should play outside on dry mornings until the bell for class is rung. They will be supervised.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Children should walk in an orderly manner inside the school building.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Children should not drop litter.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Children should not loiter in the toilets or classroom at breaktimes.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Children must not play on grass, unless permitted by supervisor or teacher.

Courtesy

- ³⁵/₁₇ Children must not use bad language.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Children must knock before entering a room.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Children must obey teachers' directions.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Children must not take, without permission, things which belong to others.

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- ³⁵/₁₇ Children must not deface their own property, or the property of others, including that of the school.
- ³⁵/₁₇ Children should greet visitors to their classroom with an appropriate welcome.

Sanctions In Discipline

Even with good classroom practice it will be necessary to have sanctions. These are necessary for two main reasons:

- ³⁵/₁₇ to make the particular child aware of the school/teacher disapproval of unacceptable behaviour
- ³⁵/₁₇ to protect the authority of teachers should that be threatened

Sanctions should

- ³⁵/₁₇ be constructive
- ³⁵/₁₇ be applied with sensitivity, flexibility and discrimination
- ³⁵/₁₇ where possible be related to the misdemeanour
- ³⁵/₁₇ be specific to the culprit and not applied to whole group

Sanctions will include

- ³⁵/₁₇ immediate verbal checking of misbehaviour
- ³⁵/₁₇ a minor penalty relevant to the offence, e.g. an apology and/or temporary loss of merit marks
- ³⁵/₁₇ temporary loss of smiley face

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- ³⁵/₁₇ repeated work where the presentation or content of work is clearly below the pupil's potential
- ³⁵/₁₇ loss of a break
- ³⁵/₁₇ referral to the principal
- ³⁵/₁₇ parent consultation
- ³⁵/₁₇ temporary removal of a pupil from his/her peers into another class.

While there is not a value placed on the list of sanctions, certain procedures should be followed, e.g. if after several verbal warnings by the class teacher, the bad behaviour persists, the matter should be referred to the principal who will decide if contact with the parents is required.

Teachers and other relevant school staff should consider themselves responsible at all times for the behaviour of all pupils. Responsibility for the behaviour of all pupils in the school is one which all teachers share.

In all matters relating to the maintenance of discipline and the applications of sanctions it must be remembered that our aim is to develop self discipline in our pupils and build and maintain their self-esteem.

Where there is continuous disruptive behaviour the SELB Behavioural Support Team will be consulted for advice and support. Parents will be notified of this.

When a pupil fails to meet the minimum required standards of behaviour, the school will impose the above mentioned sanctions including suspension and, if necessary, expulsion. CCMS and DENI advice and guidelines will be followed in such circumstances.

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Acceptance of admission to the school implies the parents' acceptance of the School's Positive Behaviour Policy.

Staff and Discipline

It is the responsibility of all staff members - both teaching and non teaching - to work together so that good discipline prevails at Saint Mary's Primary School. Discussions will take place on any issues raised by this policy.

Bullying Behaviour

See School Anti Bullying Policy.

Use of Reasonable Force to Restrain or Control pupils

It may be necessary from time to time for a staff member to use reasonable force to restrain or control pupils. All members of staff at Saint Mary's PS have been authorised by the Principal to exercise such force when necessary. Staff have been issued with guidance as detailed in DENI Circular 1999/9. (See Appendix 1)

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Monitoring and Evaluating

This policy is continually monitored by the school principal. This policy will be reviewed every three years and/or updated when advice is given by DENI. All stake holders will be involved in the review through a consultation process.