

CODE OF DISCIPLINE

INTRODUCTION:

In any community discipline means a willingness to share the environment peacefully. In a school, pupils and teachers have a right to work and learn in an atmosphere free from fear and intimidation. Discipline means that each person recognises and acknowledges the rights of others. The code of discipline for Scoil Bhríde is based on the following points of school policy.

- * Teachers and parents are partners in education and consultation and communication between parents and teachers are encouraged.
- * Scoil Bhríde is a Catholic school with a Christian ethos.
- * Scoil Bhríde is a community and the members of that community will always try to accept and accommodate differences.
- * Scoil Bhríde believes in the uniqueness and individual worth of every child.
- * All children are equal regardless of gender, ability, creed or social background.
- * Scoil Bhríde is part of the wider community and welcomes links between the school and the community.

SANCTIONS:

POLICY:

1. Pupils are expected to obey all instructions from teachers while in school, in the school grounds or taking part in school activities outside the school.
2. The school rules, code of discipline and the need for them will be explained to each class in terms appropriate to their age.
3. The child is taught that each person can choose to obey or disobey instructions or rules. If a child chooses to disobey then the child will have to accept the consequences.
4. If a pupil is consistently in breach of the school and / or classroom rules, after exploring possible reasons for misbehaviour, it shall be open to the class teacher to report the child to the principal.

5. The principal will record, in writing, the child's name and the date of the referral and the reason for the referral. The principal will then explain the relevant rules and warn the child about future behaviour. Subsequent referrals will also be recorded.
6. Regular written and verbal communication between school and home is an important feature of school policy.
7. If a child continues to breach the code of discipline and does not respond to the admonishment, the principal and / or teacher has the option of seeking an appointment with the child's parents.
8. The principal and / or teacher and parents discuss the child's behaviour and explore possible reasons for it. The parents will be expected to undertake to support the school and the class teacher in expecting the child to abide by the code of behaviour.
9. To give children an opportunity to withdraw and as an aid to conflict resolution a child may be sent to another classroom for "time out".

Suspension:

10. If a parent is unwilling or unable to support the school's expectation from the child and/or if the child's behaviour has not improved. The principal has the option of suspending the pupil from the school for a period not exceeding 3 school days.
A pupil may be suspended for a single serious breach of the Code of Discipline.
11. In consultation with the principal and having arranged through the Patron an alternative place in a primary school, the Board of Management or the Chairman on its behalf has the option of expelling a pupil for serious breaches of the Code of Discipline.
12. **Detention:** If a child has difficulty accepting that the school expects him/her to obey the school rules, a teacher or the principal, may in order to reinforce the seriousness of that expectation, detain a child during lunch times at a place where the child may be supervised. Before detention begins, children may eat lunch, use the toilet and spend some time in the yard.
13. If parents are unhappy with the way in which a particular incident has been handled the complaints procedure outlined in the policy on bullying may be used.

POLICY ON BULLYING

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is repeated aggression conducted by an individual or group against others. The aggression can be physical, verbal or psychological. Isolated incidents of aggressive behaviour may be in breach of the Code of Discipline but may not constitute bullying.

SCHOOL POLICY ON DEALING WITH BULLYING

1. Teachers will record incidents of bullying behaviour.
2. When a child reports an incident of bullying, he/she will be interviewed by the teacher. The alleged bully will also be interviewed. If the incident is serious in the teacher's opinion, the case will be referred to the principal. The principal will proceed in accordance with the Code of Discipline.
3. If a parent wishes to report an incident of bullying, the report should be made directly to a member of the teaching staff. The parents of the alleged bully will be informed at the earliest opportunity and invited to meet the principal; and / or teacher to discuss the incident.
4. If any parent feels that an incident has not been resolved satisfactorily the following procedures are open to the parent.
Step One - The parent may discuss the matter with the principal.
Step Two - If the matter is not resolved at school level the parent should refer the case to The Board of Management, through a member or by writing to the Chairman.
Step Three - If the matter is not solved at Board level it should be reported to the Primary Inspectorate, Department of Education, Marlborough Street, Dublin, quoting the name of the school and the school roll number - 13350.
5. **It is school policy that –**
 - (1) Parent's who wish to speak to a pupil should first refer to a member of the teaching staff.
 - (2) Outside agencies including parents will not be allowed to communicate with or interview individual children without referring to a member of the teaching staff.
6. It is school policy that children should not be told "Hit back", "Fight your own battles", "You'll have to toughen up".

Examples of bullying behaviour:

Punching, kicking, spitting, pinching, pushing, tripping, threatening, damage to property, cruel teasing, name calling, note passing, ignoring, excluding from games, demanding money or sweets.

Policy Statement:

Every pupil in Scoil Bhríde has the right to learn and take part in school activities free from fear or intimidation.

- * Scoil Bhríde as a community does not tolerate unkind actions or remarks even if they are not intended to hurt.
- * Repeated acts of unkindness will be called bullying.
- * Bullying will be treated seriously.
- * Children who are bullied are taught:-
 1. Say No"!!
 2. Get Away
 3. Tell someone you trust and keep telling.
- * The school recognises the worth of every single pupil.
- * Bullies and their victims are children in need and the school will always try to meet those needs.
- * The school recognises parents' right to share in teaching of life-skills.

DEFINITIONS:

BULLY

A boy/girl who fairly often oppresses or harasses somebody else. The target may be boys or girls, the harassment physical or mental.

VICTIM

A boy/girl who for a fairly long time has been and still is exposed to aggression from others, that is boys or girls from his/her own class or maybe from other classes pick fights and are rough with him/her own class or maybe from other classes, pick fights and are rough with him/her or tease and ridicule him/her.

PARENTS AND THE CODE OF DISCIPLINE

- * Parents can encourage good behaviour at school by promoting a positive image of the school and by discussing the school rules and the need for them.
- * The teachers in the school are always willing to meet with parents to discuss concerns or difficulties.
- * If you are asked to come to the school to discuss a problem please remember that the teacher or principal wants to discuss the problem, not apportion blame or make judgements.
- * There will be times when you totally disagree with something a teacher does or says. If this happens please check that you have the correct version of events and then discuss the problem with the teacher or principal.
- * Please do not undermine the authority of the school by criticising a teacher in front of pupils, come to the school to discuss the problem.
- * Listen to your child and talk about what is happening in school and let them know that you are interested and aware.
- * Be on the alert for any changes in mood or behaviour it can sometimes indicate that a child is worried or under pressure.
- * Please remember that the children can best be served if teachers and parents work together and stay in touch.
- * Please check homework journals daily for comments from your child's teacher.