



St. Patrick's Junior School

TENNIS COURT LANE, SKERRIES, CO. DUBLIN.

K34 D799

Principal: Máire Ní Chróinín
Deputy Principal: Lynsey Dungan

Roll Number: 16333Q
RCN: 20118839

Code of Behavior

Introduction:

The Staff of this school have and will continue to have a lively regard for the improvement and general welfare of our pupils. We will treat them with kindness and consideration combined with firmness. This policy gives consideration to the particular needs and circumstances of the school.

This policy was reviewed, amended and approved by the staff and Board of Management on 28/05/2019.

Very Rev. Melvyn Mullins,
Chairperson, Board of Management.

Aim:

The aim of this policy is to create an ordered and orderly environment in which pupils can, through developing positive self-esteem and self-discipline, feel secure and make progress in all aspects of their development.

Principles:

- We recognise 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.
- We recognise that a variety of differences exist between children and the need to tolerate these differences.
- We recognise the need to ensure that the code is administered in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner.
- All members of staff adopt a positive approach to the question of behavior in the school and "Catch the child being good".
 - With this in mind we have adopted the Discipline for Learning (DFL) approach.
- All pupils are taught our Anti- Bullying Code.



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School Rules:

The rules of the school (listed in Appendix 1) are based on Respect and have been kept to a minimum.

All pupils and parents are expected to follow the Code of Behaviour, which parents sign on enrolment, in its entirety. These rules are explained to the children in an age appropriate way, using our DFL motto: "kind hands, kind words, kind actions"

Unacceptable behavior will be dealt with by means of a staged approach, as follows:

Stage 1

Unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with in line with our Discipline for Learning (DFL) approach. The Principal may in consultation with the class teacher call in the parents at any time to discuss a child's behaviour.

Stage 2

- If there are repeated instances of misbehaviour by a pupil, his/her parents will be informed by letter.
- The parents will be asked to meet the Principal of the school at a specified time to discuss the behaviour.
- The parents will be required to give a written undertaking that the child will behave in an acceptable manner in future. The child will also be requested to give such an undertaking.

Stage 3

- Where it is considered desirable/necessary, parents and principal can by appointment meet with the Chairperson of the Board of Management to further discuss matters which fall within the remit of the Code of Behaviour.

Stage 4

- Suspension and Expulsion from school is a sanction of last resort and will only take place in consultation with parents and in accordance with Department of Education and Skills guidelines.

Absences:

There is a very strong tradition of good attendance in St. Patrick's Junior School. However, we are anxious that parents be aware of the absolute necessity for regular punctual attendance at school. Every minute of every school day is important.

Parents are required to write a note/letter notifying the teacher of the reason for a child's absence within **three days** of the child's return. In the case of pupils in First and Second class, parents may use the relevant section of their homework note book for this. Alternatively, they may fill in an absence note available from reception or from the class teacher.

Absences due to Term-Time Holidays:

Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child who is attending a recognised school is at school on every day that the school is open, unless there is a genuine reason for him or her not to attend (Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, S. 17). Only absences relating to activities organised by the school or in which the school is involved can be authorised by the principal (Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, Section 21 (9)). Therefore, the school cannot give "permission" for holiday absences during term time.

If a parent decides to take a child out of school for holidays, the principal will request the parent to write a letter to the school (Appendix 2) to say they are doing so and are aware that they are in breach of the Act in doing so.

Discipline for Learning (DFL)

The staff of St. Patrick's Junior School have worked together to draw up a policy that encourages good discipline and positive behaviour. Children are given the opportunity to talk about the agreed rewards and sanctions during circle time and SPHE lessons. Sanctions are separate from rewards.

Theme: Kindness

Motto: Kind words, kind hands, kind actions

Rewards

Good, kind behaviour is rewarded with stars which are stamped into children's stamp books at teacher's discretion. To aid classroom management the teacher may hand out a cardboard star which can be traded in at stamping time. Teachers may also use the "Class Dojo" web-based classroom management system. At the end of every page the child goes to the secretary's office to be awarded a sticker. On completion of the stamp book the child gets a lucky dip and begins a new book. Teachers acknowledge continuous good behaviour and good decisions by all children and use every opportunity to notice and praise good behaviour and good decisions on the part of children who find such decisions/behaviour difficult.

Sanctions

1. Verbal reprimand:
 - Gain attention
 - Name unwanted behaviour
 - Refer to desired behaviour

2. Second Verbal Reprimand:
 - To child on his or her own
 - Desired behaviour named
 - Reminder of consequence of further negative behaviour/ next step of DFL.

3. Name on blackboard (for remainder of day)
 - Reminder of consequence of further negative behaviour/ next step of DFL.

4. Thinking chair
 - Until ready to discuss behaviour with teacher (rule of thumb: one minute for every year of life)
 - When ready - Apologise

5. Thinking chair in another class
 - Remain for agreed time or until sent for
 - This applies even at P.E. time

6. Principal's office
 - Reprimand and name in book

- Parents notified on third offence

Except for number 6 each day is a new beginning for sanctions.

Sanctions in Yard

1. Verbal reprimand concerning unsuitable play
 - Charging / running
 - Unsafe behaviour
 - Rough play
 - Being mean or nasty
2. Stand at the wall for a limited period of time (up to 5 minutes)
3. Shadow the teacher

Anti-Bullying Code

Our Anti-Bullying Code will be displayed in each classroom.
Junior and Senior Infants will focus on number 1-3.
First and Second Classes will display 1-5.

Our Anti-Bullying Code

1. Be kind to everyone.
2. Play together and stay together
3. Friends mind each other
4. We call repeated unkind actions or words bullying – SAY “NO” TO BULLYING!
5. Tell someone you trust if you are bullied. Keep telling until someone helps you.

This is a telling school.

Appendix 1

School Rules

1. All pupils and parents are expected to follow the Code of Behaviour, which parents sign on enrolment, in its entirety. These rules are explained to the children in an age appropriate way, using our DFL motto: "kind hands, kind words, kind actions"
2. Children may only leave the school during school hours if collected by a parent or legal guardian. If the child is to be collected by any person other than a parent or legal guardian a written request must be submitted naming the person who will collect the child.
3. All members of the school community (staff, pupils & parents) must be treated with respect.
4. All property within the school must be treated with respect.
5. All forms of aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour or play are forbidden.
6. No bad language is allowed.
7. School Uniform and school tracksuit must be worn on appropriate days.
8. No running allowed on the premises.
9. The school's healthy lunch policy must be followed.

Appendix 2

ST. PATRICK'S JNS, SKERRIES.
HOLIDAY NOTIFICATION LETTER.

Child's name:

Class Teacher's name: _____

Class level (circle): JI SI Rang 1 Rang 2

Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child who is attending a recognised school is at school on every day that the school is open, unless there is a genuine reason for him or her not to attend (Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, S. 17).

Only absences relating to activities organised by the school or in which the school is involved can be authorised by the principal (Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, Section 21 (9)).

Therefore, the school cannot give "permission" for holiday absences during term time.

We, the parents of the above named child are taking our child out of school for holidays from (date) _____ until (date)

_____.

We fully understand that this is contrary to our legal obligation under the Education Welfare Act, 2000.

We further understand that should our child's absences reach or exceed 20 days in a year the school is obliged to report this to the Education Welfare Board/TÚSLA.

(Parent/Guardian)

(Parent/Guardian)

Where there are two guardians, both must sign.