

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Development of the St. Joseph's N.S. Code of Behaviour:

This code of Behaviour is being prepared in accordance with the guidelines "Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for School" published by the National Educational Welfare Boards (NEWB, 2008). The Code of Behaviour also conforms to legislation as required by Section 23 of the Education Welfare Act (2000). Parents, staff, Board of Management and members of the school community have been asked to read this Code and give feedback. The Code of Behaviour is available on the school website, and a copy of the code is given to new parents before the beginning of the school year in September. The Code of Behaviour needs to be read in association with the school "Anti - bullying", "Child Protection", "Sanctions" and "Harassment" policies. When parents enrol their child at St. Joseph's N.S. they are agreeing to support the implementation of the Code of Behaviour and other policies in the school.

Vision Statement

Our school cherishes all pupils equally and to aid them in achieving their true potential we endeavour to:

Offer a happy and positive experience of school that fosters a sense of uniqueness and self-esteem whilst maintaining a sense of fun and play.

Promote a good attitude to and respect for peers and teachers and a sense of inclusion in the school community where parents already play an integral role.

Encourage each child to develop to their full potential in all curricular areas and to be motivated in their learning.

Instill a nurturing sense of awe, wonder and beauty and so lead our pupils to God.

Demonstrate a commitment to promoting a healthy attitude towards physical development through exercise and diet.

Value the diversity of our culture and environment and build a sense of citizenship where pupils have a sense of tolerance, responsibility and an awareness of their own rights and the rights of others.

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Aims:

The code aims at creating a caring, ordered environment based on respect and tolerance where each child can feel secure and confident. The code not only applies everywhere on the school premises but also applies at any school related activity whether on or off the premises such as school tours, swimming, sports activities, religious ceremonies etc.

Strategies to promote Positive Behaviour:

- Ensuring that pupils are treated both equally and fairly.
- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- Matching work with pupil's abilities; a prize/reward carefully noted by the teacher to ensure that all children at regular stages during the school year are rewarded for effort/behaviour/skill etc. Teachers creating moments of success and then acknowledging them.
- A comment in a pupil's exercise book;
- A visit to another member of staff or the Principal for commendation;
- A word of praise in front of a group or class;
- Acknowledgement of good behaviour - verbal, happygram, tootle.
- Delegating some responsibility or privilege.
- A mention to a parent - written or verbal.
- Teacher records improvement in the behaviour of a disruptive pupil;
- Individual behaviour plans are put in place if needed.
- Implementation of Programmes such as Incredible Years, Zippy's Friends, PAX Good Behaviour Game, to promote positive behaviour.
- Focus on positive behaviour, classroom rules and yard rules at the start of each term. Friendship Week, Anti-bullying Weeks to be held regularly.

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Happy Rules:

Children cannot remember long lists of rules. The expectations in this policy provide clear guidelines for members of our school community and pupils as to what type of behaviour is expected of pupils and adults within our school. Classroom rules are on display in classrooms throughout the school. These rules show the children what is expected of them, in a language they understand and incorporate our school motto "Every child, every chance, every day". Children will be reminded of these rules and will recite them and discuss them regularly.

1. Be gentle
2. Be kind to others
3. Show respect for your classmates and teachers
4. Be a good friend. Let others join your games. Take turns
5. Listen to others
6. Speak nicely, use kind words
7. Think first
8. Do your best
9. Always tell the truth
10. Smile, be happy and have fun

Expectation of staff:

All staff members and helpers are expected to:

- Support and implement the school's code of behaviour;
- Be cognisant of their duty of care;
- To be familiar with and follow the school's policy on "Child Protection".
- Create a safe, welcoming environment for each pupil;
- Praise desirable behaviour;
- Facilitate pupils to reach their full academic potential;
- Recognise and provide for individual talents and differences among students
- Be courteous, consistent and fair;
- Keep opportunities for disruptive behaviour to a minimum;
- Deal appropriately with misbehaviour;
- Keep a record of serious misbehaviour or repeated instances of misbehaviour;
- Listen, at appropriate times, to pupils' explanations for behaviour;
- Provide support for colleagues;
- Be familiar with the Teaching Council's "Professional Conduct Code".

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- Communicate with parents and staff when necessary, always with courtesy and respect.
- Provide reports on matters of concern.

Expectation of Parents:

- To nurture in their children a positive attitude towards school.
- To ensure their child attends school regularly and punctually in full school uniform with appropriate clothing for the weather so that their child will be warm and dry playing outside during breaks.
- To send a written note to the class teacher or phone call to the office explaining the child's absence from school;
- To ensure the school has up-to-date phone numbers of family/friends to be contacted in case of an emergency.
- To arrange and ensure that a family member/friend is contactable and available to attend the school in the event of an emergency.
- To ensure that their child attends school with a good level of hygiene; to check their child's head regularly for head-lice and to treat as necessary.
- To ensure that their child has a healthy lunch in school every day in line with the school policy on healthy eating.
- To arrange meetings with their class teacher and/or principal when they are concerned about any issue relating to their child.
- To model courtesy and respect in their relationships with teachers.
- To encourage children to have a sense of respect for themselves, for others, for their own property and that of others.
- To be interested in, support and encourage their child's school work.
- To co-operate with teachers in incidents where their child's behaviour is causing difficulties for others.
- To communicate to the school any problems which may affect a child's behaviour.

Expectation of Pupils:

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Pupils are expected:

- To listen to the class teacher, work hard, do their best and make best use of their time in school

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- To enter and leave the school building safely at all times in an orderly fashion; for more information please refer to the school's "Exit and entry routines". When the bell rings after play-time, the children stop playing and walk to their class lines. Children do not enter the school building without getting permission from teachers. (First-aid pass/Toilet pass)
- To walk within the school building.
- To treat all staff members, themselves and each other with due respect and courtesy.
- To welcome visitors and to show respect to their elders
- Not to bully any person; any behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to be safe is unacceptable. Fighting, rough play or any physical force is never allowed or tolerated.
- Not to use bad language; inappropriate language if used towards a teacher or anywhere within the school or while on a school activity is considered a breach of the code.
- To wear their full school uniform.
- Not to bring chewing gum or glass bottles either on the premises or to a school related activity.
- To bring no jewellery to school
- To respect the school building and property; if any deliberate damage is caused, the parent/guardian will be responsible for the cost of repair/replacement.
- To value our school environment; the playground is a litter-free zone. Fruit peels, pencil parings, etc. are collected for composting. Waste paper and cardboard are collected for recycling. All other empty drink containers and packaging are considered household waste and are taken home.
- Not to climb on the school railings.

