

Below is the current text of this policy. Please note, however, that it is due for review during the 2019/20 school year.



Code of Behaviour

Introductory Statement

This code of behaviour was reviewed in the spring and summer terms 2017 by the staff, parent's council, student council and the Board of Management.

This code should be read in conjunction with other relevant policies ([Health and Safety](#), [Anti-Bullying](#), [Homework](#), [Child protection](#), [Enrolment](#), [Parental Involvement](#) and Learn Together policies) and with the [school information booklet](#).

Introduction

Our School aims to provide a happy, secure, friendly, learning environment, where children, parents, teachers, special needs assistants, ancillary staff and Board of Management work in partnership. Each individual is valued, encouraged and respected for their uniqueness and facilitated to reach their full potential in a positive atmosphere.

Children learn through shared experiences and by following examples. It is for this reason that all members of our school community should model positive and respectful behaviour towards one another at all times.

It is imperative that the whole school community agree to uphold a cohesive and consistent set of behaviours, expressed in this code of behaviour, that encapsulate the positive principles of our school ethos here in Dublin 7 Educate Together.

Through this code of behaviour in conjunction with our Learn Together policy the guiding principles of our school are presented, fostered and implemented. These principles strive to enable the child to live a full life and will equip him/her to avail himself/herself of further education so that he/she may go on to live a full and useful life as an adult in society.

This Code of Behaviour was implemented in September 2017 and will be reviewed in 2019.

Rationale

According to DES Circular 20/90, schools are required to have a code of behaviour. This code has been drawn up in accordance with DES and INTO guidelines. Over the past nine years the school has grown considerably in size, to approximately 470 pupils. The school also changed location, in September 2009, to purpose-built temporary premises on the Grangegorman site. The code of behaviour needed to reflect these developments.

Content

The School Community

Every effort will be made by all members of our school community (the staff, the parents, the children and those responsible for after-school activities) to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in our school. We expect everyone to show kindness and courtesy in all their dealings with others.

Responsibility of Adults

The adults encountered by the children at school have an important responsibility to model high standards of behaviour, both in their dealings with the children and with each other, as their example has an important influence on the children.

As adults we should aim to:

- Create a positive climate with realistic expectations.

- Promote positive behaviour, through example, honesty and courtesy.
- Be mindful and respectful when using all forms of communication including social media.
- Provide a caring and effective learning environment.
- Encourage relationships based on kindness, respect and understanding of the needs of others.
- Ensure fair treatment for all regardless of age, gender, race, ability and disability.
- Show appreciation of the efforts and contribution of all.

A Code of Conduct for staff, pupils and volunteers ensures that the rights of all are upheld.

The Staff

The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the principal teacher.

Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline in his/her classroom, while sharing a common responsibility for good order in the school environment.

Staff are encouraged to support the children by actively engaging in discussions with parents on behavioural issues as necessary.

The Parents

As important members of the school community, parents are encouraged to support the school and their children:

- by making their children aware of the behaviour expected by the code and encouraging their children to abide by it.
- by consulting the information booklet for school policy on mobile phones, jewellery, etc. (This booklet is available on the school website, www.d7educatetogether.com)
- by ensuring that their child gives due time and effort to homework and by providing a suitable environment, free of distraction to enable the children to give their best effort to their work.
- by actively engaging in discussions with members of staff on behavioural issues as necessary.
- by visiting the school when requested to do so by the Principal or by another member of staff.
- by ensuring that children arrive on time for school.

Responsibility of Children

In our school we believe that no child is an outsider. Children are actively encouraged to help each other keep the school a pleasant and safe place to be, to learn and to grow:

- by being kind and thoughtful.
- by listening and giving others an opportunity to talk.
- by including others in what they do.
- by making new pupils feel welcome
- by avoiding acting in ways that are hurtful to others e.g. fighting, teasing, bullying, swearing or hurting other people's feelings.

- by being mindful and respectful when using all forms of communication including social media.
- by showing courtesy to all members of staff
- by listening to teachers in the school environment and when outside the school on school trips.
- by following the “ONE VOICE” rule
- by asking permission to leave the room.
- by treating others the way they would like to be treated themselves.

Children can keep themselves safe

- by obeying classroom rules during breaks.
- by obeying yard rules (see appendix).
- by playing safely
- by never leaving the school without the teacher’s/principal’s permission.
- by walking when transitioning from one activity to another in the school building, in the yard or between the yard and the school.

Children can help take care of their own property, that of the school and that of others

- by keeping the playground, classrooms and school buildings clean and tidy.
- by tidying up after themselves and bringing home leftovers and wrappings from their lunch.
- by looking after the school furniture, equipment and toilets.
- by doing what they can to keep the property of the school, their own property and the property of others in the condition they would like to find it themselves – in particular the books which are rented and the school library books.
- by ensuring their names are on coats etc.

Sanctions

The following sanctions may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour:

Examples of actions that may be taken by teachers when dealing with minor misbehaviours:

- Reasoning with pupils
- Verbal warning from a teacher or supervising adult
- Temporary separation from peers to another area in the room or yard
- Temporary separation from peers to another classroom
- Note home to parents/guardians
- Loss of privileges
- Exclusion of children from any activities in or outside the school if their behaviour during this activity poses a risk to themselves or others or prevents other children from learning

Examples of actions that may be taken when dealing with regular occurrences of minor misbehaviours:

- Verbal warning from a teacher or supervising adult
- Temporary separation from peers to another area in the room or yard
- Temporary separation from peers to another classroom
- Temporary separation from peers to the principal's office
- Note home to parents
- A written account of the incident that happened may be sought from the pupil and/or an apology written by the pupil and signed by the parent.
- Exclusion of children from any activities in or outside the school if their behaviour during this activity poses a risk to themselves or others or prevents other children from learning
- An informal meeting between the teacher and the parents/guardians which may include the Principal.

Examples of actions that may be taken when a pattern of poor behaviour persists or when a once off serious incident occurs.

- Note home to parents
- A written account of the incident that happened may be sought from the pupil and/or an apology written by the pupil and signed by the parent.
- A formal meeting between the teacher and the parents/guardians which may include the Principal
- Behaviour Management Plan agreed between parents, teacher and child
- Reporting incidents of a serious nature to the BoM
- Suspension/expulsion* from school for a period, agreed by the BoM.

Ratification

This policy was circulated for discussion and comment to all sections of the school community. It was ratified by the Board of Management for implementation from September 2017. It will be reviewed in 2019.

*This is in accordance with the National Education Welfare Board guidelines and fulfils the school's obligations under Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act, 2000. If a BoM decides to expel a pupil, parents/guardians have a right of appeal to the Secretary General of the DES under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

Appendix 1

During yard and break times children are expected to:

- Walk quietly on the stairs and hold the handrail on the way to the yard.
- Talk to the teachers on duty in the yard if there is a problem that needs attention, not wait and take the problem to the class teacher.
- Play safely and fairly in the yard.
- Treat others with kindness, include them in their games and not spoil other children's games.
- Ask for permission to leave the yard.

- Remember that the grass areas are only to be used for sitting and chatting not for running.
- Freeze when first whistle is blown.
- Walk to the line-up area, line up quietly and in single file when the second whistle is blown. (Children who do not follow this rule will be asked to stand aside until the lines have left the yard.)
- Remain in single file en route to the classroom and hold the hand rails on the stairs.
- Remain seated at all times while eating lunch or waiting to begin work.
- Stay at their own table.
- Ask permission from a supervising adult to leave their place for any reason.