



*"Let the rooms be
full of happiness"*

*Scoil Íósaf National School,
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CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Scoil Íósaf NS, Baile Na Martra, 13647B

Scoil Íósaf treats all pupils equally. To aid all pupils to achieve their full potential this Code of Behaviour, which cultivates **respect for all**, has been devised. A high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school. It requires a high level of co-operation between staff, parents and pupils. The school recognises the differences that exist between children and the need to tolerate these differences. This Code of Behaviour aims to:

- Create an orderly environment in which the pupils can feel secure and develop progressively.
- Develop a proper sense of social behaviour and school discipline.
- Show regard for the safety, health and well-being of pupils, staff and all visitors to Scoil Íósaf.
- Outline predictable and consistent sanctions where necessary.
- The code encourages the fostering of self-discipline and self-regulation.

Scoil Íósaf has in place a code of conduct which is clearly displayed inside the main door, in each classroom and in the School Journal. This code is referred to regularly. It is printed in the school Booklet for Parents.

Code of Conduct

The code of discipline aims to promote good communication, co-operation, respect and discipline in a safe and friendly atmosphere.

- Good manners and politeness are expected. Show respect for teachers, other adults and your classmates.
- Be punctual – arrive on time each morning.
- Wear correct uniform each day.
- All homework must be completed and handed up on time.
- **AGGRESSIVE VERBAL behaviour; Aggressive PSYCHOLOGICAL behaviour; OR aggressive PHYSICAL behaviour IS NOT ALLOWED.**
- Keep your hands, your feet and your comments to yourself.
- Obey the school bell and line up in an orderly fashion.
- **RESPECT TO BE SHOWN FOR SCHOOL PROPERTY AND THE BELONGINGS OF OTHERS.**
- Keep the school and playground litter free.
- Walk in the corridor – on the right-hand side.
- Chewing Gum is not allowed in the school or playground.
- Be quiet and remain in desks if your teacher has to leave the room.
- Always allow others to work undisturbed.
- **Abusive substances are not allowed.**
- **Weapons are not allowed.**

Other behaviour guidelines are:

- I am careful coming to and going from school.
- I bring a note to explain absences.
- I never leave the school grounds without the permission of the principal or supervising adult.
- I use the school footpath.
- I attend to my personal cleanliness.
- I bring a lunch that adheres to the healthy eating policy of Scoil Iósaf.
- I always do my best in school.
- I communicate in a respectful way with everybody.
- I speak at an acceptable noise level.

Affirming Positive Behaviour.

Scoil Iósaf believes that reinforcement of good behaviour leads to better self-discipline and as a school we place a greater emphasis on rewards and incentives than on sanctions. The school promotes good behaviour through the selection of “Student of the Week” (or similar incentives). Individual teachers put in place an assortment of systems to encourage good behaviour and academic performance e.g. Golden Time, Class Dojo, or Reward charts and systems. It is the duty of individual teachers to appraise the families involved of their in-class systems when necessary.

Strategies and Incentives to acknowledge and promote good behaviour:

- Selection as “Student of the Week”.
- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment on a child’s exercise book.
- A visit to another class or the Principal for commendation.
- Praise in front of class group.
- Praise in front of whole school at assembly or line-up time.
- Individual class merit awards, points awards or award stamps.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- Written or verbal communication with parent.

Discouraging Misbehaviour.

Sanctions will be applied when misbehaviour occurs. Sanctions will take regard of the gravity of the misbehaviour, the age of the child and the emotional development of the child.

The degree of misbehaviour i.e. minor, serious or gross will be judged by the teachers of Scoil Iósaf based on a common sense approach which takes into account the gravity and frequency of the misbehaviour.

Examples of Minor Misbehaviour:

Interrupting class work / running in school building / talking in class / littering / not wearing correct uniform / being discourteous, unmannerly / not completing homework without good reason / minor endangerment of self or others / using unacceptable language.

Examples of Serious Misbehaviour:

Being constantly disruptive / deliberately leaving taps turned on / bullying / stealing / leaving the school premises without permission / frequenting the school premises after hours without permission / deliberately blocking toilets / unacceptable language /

Examples of Gross Misbehaviour:

Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a pupil, staff member or teacher / unresolved bullying / deliberately injuring a fellow pupil / bringing weapons to school / serious endangerment of self or others. / damaging school property / turning on the fire hose / deliberately activating the fire alarm / setting fire to the school.

Sanctions may include some or all of the following:

- Verbal reprimand / Reasoning with the pupil.
- A verbal reprimand including, advice on how to improve.
- Temporary separation from peers within class.
- Temporary removal to another class.
- Extra work.
- Noting instance of yard misbehaviour in yard book.
- Lack of Homework, (either not attempted or incomplete) or Glasses or Incorrect Uniform are noted by the class teacher.
- Write an account of what happened.
- Reflection sheet to be completed. This will detail what has happened, why it has happened and what the child can do to remedy the situation. This will be completed in a different classroom to that of the child and will be signed and dated by the teacher that has assigned the reflection sheet. The reflection sheet should be placed in the child's file in the office and the principal should be informed of the incident.
- Loss of privileges / denial of participation in a class activity.
- Detention during break at designated place in the playground.
- A note in the homework journal to be signed by a parent.
- Discussion with a parent regarding the misbehaviour.
- Referral to the Principal. 2nd referral requires automatic communication with parents.
- Principal communicating with parents.
- Exclusion (Suspension or Expulsion) from school (in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular and Education Welfare Act 2000).

Suspension/Expulsion

For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension may be considered. The Parents / Guardians concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case.

Examples of serious misbehaviour are listed above. Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents will be requested to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson and the Principal. If the parents do not give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future the pupil may be suspended for a period. Prior to suspension, where possible, the Principal may review the case in consultation with teachers and other members of the school community involved, with due regard to records of previous misbehaviours, their pattern and context, sanctions and other interventions used and their outcomes and any relevant medical information. Suspension will be in accordance with the Rules for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000.

In the case of gross misbehaviour, where it is necessary to ensure that order and discipline are maintained and to secure the safety of the pupils, the Board may authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding three school days, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents.

Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with the Rule for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000. Before suspending or expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Local Welfare Education Officer in writing in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.

Reinstatement:

Following or during a period of suspension, the parent/s may apply to have the pupil reinstated to the school. The parent/s must give a satisfactory undertaking that a suspended pupil will behave in accordance with the school code and the Principal must be satisfied that the pupil's reinstatement will not constitute a risk to the pupil's own safety or that of the other pupils or staff. The Principal will facilitate the preparation of a behaviour plan for the pupil if required and will re-admit the pupil formally to the class.

Before/After School

Parents are reminded that the staff of Scoil Iósaf does not accept responsibility for pupils before official supervision time of 9.00 a.m. or after the official closing time of 1.50 p.m. (infants) 2.50 p.m. (other classes) except where pupils are engaged in an extra-curricular activity organised by the school and approved by the Board of Management. Pupils involved in such activities are expected to behave in accordance with school behaviour policy during these times. Pupils are expected to behave in an orderly manner at all times on the school campus.

This Code of Behaviour applies to all Pupils.

Ratified at BOM Meeting on 20/07/2020