



## **THE CODE OF BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE FOR BALLYCAHILL N.S.**

1. In devising the code, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of this school. The aim is to ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated while acknowledging the right of each child to education in a relatively disruption-free environment.
2. Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school. The code offers a framework within which positive techniques of motivation and encouragement are utilised by teachers.
3. The school places greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions in the belief that this will, in the long run, give the best results.
4. The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
5. It is agreed that a high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school and a high level of cooperation among staff and between staff, parents and pupils.
6. The rules are being kept to a minimum and are positively stated in terms of what pupils should do.
7. All efforts will be made to match the curriculum to the abilities, aptitudes and interests of each pupil. This should help to reduce boredom, lack of interest or lack of progress.
8. The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the principal. Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within his/her classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good order within the school premises. A pupil will be referred to the principal for serious breaches of discipline and for repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour.

9. The following strategies may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour.

- (a) Reasoning with the pupil
- (b) Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
- (c) Temporary separation from peers, friends or others
- (d) Loss of privileges
- (e) Detention during a break or after school hours
- (f) Prescribing additional work
- (g) Referral to principal
- (h) Communication with parents
- (i) Suspension (temporary)

Teachers shall keep a written record of all instances of serious misbehaviour as well as a record of improvements in the behaviour of disruptive pupils. Before resorting to serious sanctions e.g. suspension, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Parents will be involved at an early stage rather than as a last resort.

Communication with parents will be verbal or by letter, depending on circumstances. The parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case. For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension will be considered. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour, depending on circumstances.

*Note: A serious breach of discipline would involve activities such as bad language, display of temper, serious bullying, violence, damage to property. Consistent minor breaches of discipline will receive similar treatment.*

Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents will be requested in writing 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 have to be suspended for a temporary period. Suspension will be in accordance with the terms of Rule 130(5) of the Rules of National Schools.

In the case of gross misbehaviour the Board shall authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents.

Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with Rule 130(6).

10. Every effort will be made to have an emotionally disturbed child referred for psychological assessment without delay. Help will be sought also from support services within the wider community, e.g. Community Care Services provided by Health Boards.
11. In formulating this code, the Board of Management considered a submission relating to the possible content of a code received from, and discussed with, the body representing the parents of the pupils attending the school.

All members of the teaching staff have been involved in planning the code.

A copy of this code has been made available to parents.

12. In the belief that the most effective schools tend to be those with the best relationships with parents, every effort will be made by the principal and staff to ensure that parents are kept well informed, that the school provides a welcoming atmosphere towards parents and that parents are not only told when their children are in trouble but when they have behaved particularly well.
13. The code will be presented and reviewed annually at outlined intervals at Board of Management meetings.

*PLEASE NOTE*

The School Authorities reserve the right to give other instructions and prohibit other practices, which they may see as undesirable, from time to time e.g. bangers, mobile phones, laser lights or other items or practices which may become a nuisance or a hazard or otherwise unhelpful.

Children will not be allowed to use mobile phones in the School environs as children have access to the school phone if and when it is genuinely required.

If a parent wishes to make a complaint to the school she/he should arrange for an appointment with the class teacher. Should the matter not be resolved, the parent should then refer the matter to the Principal. If it needs to be taken further, the complaint must be put in writing to the Board of Management.

School will open at 9.20pm to facilitate entry. Children are not supervised on the school grounds before 9.30am or after 3.20pm.