

RATIONALE

This code is designed to reflect the general ethos of the Intermediate School, as set out in the Mission Statement. The school wishes to educate its students in a pleasant environment where all students will be happy and feel secure. It seeks to help them to achieve the full potential of their talents and to strive for excellence in all areas. Students, parents and school personnel have a duty to co-operate with each other in upholding the code if we are to create a respectful and cooperative atmosphere in which every individual is given the best possible opportunity to grow and develop academically, socially and personally within an ordered and safe school community. The school recognises the importance of partnership between students, parents and staff in the process of generating, implementing and reviewing the Code of Behaviour. As such collaboration will be facilitated to allow all partners participate in this process. Account has also been taken of the requirements as set down by the Constitution, the Education Acts and other relevant legislation.

Affirmation of Good Behaviour

Praise and positive consequences are seen as more desirable and important to staff in motivating students than punishment and negative consequences. In the Intermediate School we employ a number of mechanisms to achieve this.

- We endeavour to affirm students' self-worth and self-esteem with praise for progress and effort as well as for high grades and achievements.
- Acknowledgement of sporting or academic success is highlighted in the school magazine/newsletter or on notice boards.
- Special mention of an achievement during Assembly or through use of the intercom.
- Appointment to positions of responsibility.
- An Awards Night is held annually where students may be presented with academic and sporting achievement awards as well as 'school spirit' awards.

Role of the Student

Students are encouraged to develop a sense of ownership in relation to the Code of Behaviour. Students will be familiar with the standards of behaviour and rules set out in the code. All students will be required to read, accept and sign the code.

Role of the Parent/Guardian

As the primary educators of their children, the support of parents/guardians is of great value to the school and is important for the implementation of the code. Parents/guardians are encouraged to see the positive benefits of the code for all. They are asked to be aware of the rules and standards set out in the code and to encourage their child to follow the regulations. Parents/guardians are asked to consult their child's diary daily with regard to homework, communications from teachers, etc.

Role of the Teacher

All teachers will be thoroughly familiar with the Code of Behaviour. Teachers will implement the policy through a range of strategies for the benefit of all partners. When implementing the code, teachers will endeavour to do so in a fair and consistent manner.

Role of the Year Head

The Year Head will familiarise students with the school rules, sanctions and general thrust of the Code of Behaviour.

Role of Management

The management of the school will oversee its implementation.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

All partners in the school community deserve to be treated with respect. Students are expected to show courtesy, thoughtfulness and respect in their dealings with

- Students are expected to show respect for their peers, teachers, other staff members and visitors to the school.
- In moving through the school at times of congestion, all should move in a purposeful and courteous manner. At the change of classes, students should proceed in an orderly and considerate fashion.
- Students are required to speak in a polite manner.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Students will at all times respect the safety and well-being of others.
- Students are required to behave in a socially acceptable manner. Aggressive and boisterous behaviour is not tolerated.
- In the event of the Fire Alarm sounding students should leave immediately in class groups and make their way to the designated assembly areas in accordance with fire drill regulations.
- Smoking is harmful to health and highly addictive. It is forbidden.
- Chewing gum is unhygienic. It is forbidden. Students can incur a €6 fine and cleaning duties.
- The possession or use of alcohol, illegal drugs or offensive weapons is strictly forbidden and will lead to most serious sanctions being taken. It is emphasised that this regulation also applies to out of school activities.
- Tampering with safety equipment is a serious offence.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is essential for progress in learning. In addition, any student who exceeds 20 days absence in one school year will be reported to the Welfare Board, in accordance with legislation.

- On returning to school after absence, students must submit a note of explanation from parents/guardians. This note will be in the Absence Booklet provided and must be dropped into the box before 9am. This note must have name, class group (C, D, L...) and date of absence. A note should also be entered in the student diary to be shown to individual teachers.
- If students are likely to be absent for more than two consecutive days, parents/guardians are asked to notify the school.
- Students may not leave school during school hours without:
 - i) Note from parents/guardians which must be handed into the office
 - ii) Permission from the school authorities.
 - iii) Signing a special register.
- Leaving school without permission is a serious offence. Any student who fails to follow the correct procedure may warrant a sanction.
- Students must attend all designated classes unless otherwise advised by the school authorities.
- It is essential that each student has a functioning I.D. card for recording daily attendance. Replacement cards may be ordered by contacting the office.

PUNCTUALITY

It is the responsibility of each student to be on time for school and all classes. Sanctions will apply.

- As students must be on time for class, they may only visit lockers before 8.55am, at 11am and from 12.30 to 1.15pm.
- A standard letter will be sent to parents/guardians of frequent offenders.

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

- The school uniform identifies its wearer as a student of the Intermediate School and it should be worn correctly and with pride.
- Students must be of neat appearance.
- Only the specified school uniform is permitted in the school building.
- Jackets must not be worn in the school building.