

*Scoil Náisiúnta Eochaille Ara*  
*Youghalarra National School*

**CODE OF CONDUCT**  
**(Córas Smachta)**

**Aims:**

- a) In devising the code, consideration has to be given to the particular needs of Youghalarra School. The aim is to create an ordered and orderly environment in which pupils can, through developing self-discipline, feel secure and make progress in all aspects of their development.
- b) Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school.

**Principles:**

- a) The school recognises the variety of differences that exist among children and the need to tolerate these differences.
- b) It is agreed that a high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school and a high level of co-operation among staff and between staff, parents/guardians and pupils.
- c) Every effort will be made to ensure that the code of discipline is implemented in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner.

**School rules:**

**Safety:**

For my own safety and that of others

- a) I should be careful coming to and going from school.
- b) I should always walk while in the school building.
- c) I should remain seated while eating lunch.
- d) I should always show respect for my fellow pupils.
- e) I should never leave the school grounds without the permission of the Principal or a teacher.

**Caring for myself:**

- a) I should respect myself and my property, always keeping my school bag, books and copies in good order.
- b) I should always be in school before 9.00 a.m.
- c) I should show respect for my school and be proud to wear complete school uniform every day.
- d) I should always be aware of my personal cleanliness.
- e) I should always bring a sensible, nutritional lunch to school. Crisps, minerals, sweets or chewing gum are not permitted.
- f) I should always do my best in school by listening carefully, working as hard as I can and by completing my homework.

**Caring for others:**

- a) I should be kind and respectful to teachers and fellow pupils by being mannerly and polite and by taking turns.
- b) I should behave well in class so that my fellow pupils and I can learn.
- c) I should always keep my school clean.
- d) I should show respect for the property of my fellow pupils, the school building and grounds.
- e) Be truthful and honest at all times.

## **Clár ama Na Scoile**

School begins: 09:00 a.m.  
Sos: 10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Lunch: 12:45 p.m. – 01:15 p.m.

School closes: Infants: 01:45 p.m.  
Other classes 02:45 p.m.

## **Homework:**

It is a policy of the school of the school to assign homework on a regular basis. Parents/guardians are strongly advised to take an active interest in their child's homework and to sign their homework each night.

## **Strategies**

### **(a) Praise may be given by means of any one of the following:**

- A quiet word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment in a pupil's exercise book.
- A visit to another member of staff or to the Principal for commendation.
- A word of praise in front of a group or class.
- A system of merit marks.
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege.
- A mention to Parents/Guardians, written or verbal communication.

### **(b) Disapproval of unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with as follows:**

- (the nature of the behaviour will determine the strategy)

- Reasoning with pupils
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
- Prescribing extra work.
- Verbal communication with Parents/Guardians.
- Temporary separation from peers and/or loss of privileges.
- Referral to Principal/Deputy-Principal.
- Note to parents.
- Take note of.
- Write out.
- Suspension/expulsion (in accordance with rule 130 of the Rules for National schools as amended by circular 7/88).

### **Examples of minor misdemeanours:**

Interrupting class work / arriving late for school / running in school building / leaving seat without permission at lunchtime / leaving litter around school / not wearing correct uniform / being discourteous / unmannerly / not completing homework without good reason / not having homework signed by a parent / endangering self / fellow pupils in the school yard at break time.

The Class Teachers and/or Principal will judge the degree of misdemeanours, i.e. minor, serious or gross, based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity/frequency of such misdemeanours.

### **Examples of steps to be taken by teachers when dealing with minor misdemeanours:**

- Reasoning with pupil
- Verbal reprimand.
- Noting instances of yard misbehaviour in Incident book.

### **Example of steps to be taken when dealing with regular occurrences of minor misdemeanours**

#### ***Phase 1***

1. Write story of what happened OR one copy of school rules OR relevant rule to upper limit of 20 times – all to be signed by parent.
2. Note in homework journal/notebook to be signed by parent / Temporary separation from peers.
3. Sending to another teacher.
4. Note to parents concerning further misbehaviour in yard.  
*(Misbehaviour in yard consists on any action that puts the safety of self/other pupils at risk)*

#### ***Phase 2***

1. Send to deputy-Principal.
2. Send to Principal.
3. Class teacher meets one/both Parents/Guardians.
4. Principal/Deputy-Principal meets one or both Parents/Guardians concerning yard behaviour.

### **Example of serious misdemeanours:**

Constantly disruptive in class / telling lies / stealing / damaging other pupil's property / bullying / back-answering a teacher / frequenting school premises after school hours without appropriate permission / leaving school premises during school day without appropriate permission / not working to full potential / using unacceptable language / bringing weapons to school / deliberately injuring a fellow pupil

### **Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with serious misdemeanours:**

1. Send to Deputy-Principal.
2. Send to Principal.
3. Principal sends note home in child's Journal to be signed by one or both parents/guardians
4. Principal meets with one or both parents/guardians.
5. Board of Management is informed and parents/guardians requested to meet with Principal and Chairperson of Board of Management.

### **Examples of Gross Misdemeanours:**

Setting fire to school property / deliberately leaving taps/fire hose turned on / aggressive / threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher/pupil.

### **Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with gross misdemeanours:**

1. Chairperson of board of Management / Principal to sanction immediate suspension pending discussion with parents/guardians.
2. Expulsion will be considered in an extreme case in accordance with Rule 130 (6) i.e.  
*"No pupil can be struck off the rolls for breaches of discipline without prior consent of patron and until alternative arrangements are made for enrolment of pupil at another suitable school in the locality"*

***It should be noted that these lists consist of examples only: It is not meant to be a totally comprehensive list of misdemeanours and procedural steps.***

