# Code of Behaviour

# Scoil Chrónáin

**Introduction**

The vision of our school is:

* to provide a harmonious, secure and caring environment in which the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and nurtured;
* to enhance the self-esteem of all in the school community and to imbue in the pupils a sense of respect and responsibility for themselves, others, the school, the local community and the environment;
* to encourage the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of the curriculum and in the personal development of the children.

We welcome and encourage parents as partners in our school and we aim to foster a sense of community between management, teachers, parents and pupils.

The Code of Behaviour has been developed to further this vision.

The overall aim of this Code of Behaviour is to provide a framework and guidelines to ensure the safety and well-being of all the children in our school.

The Board of management has responsibility for the promotion of good behaviour in the school.

The Board acknowledges the importance of home and school cooperation in the implementation of this code and therefore parents/guardians are expected to ensure that children understand and are familiar with all school rules.

**Aims of the code**

The Code of Behaviour for Scoil Chrónáin SNS is intended

* To ensure a safe and positive learning environment for our pupils.

The Code is designed

* To foster self esteem through the promotion of self discipline and a respectful, caring and considerate attitude to others in the school community.

To achieve these aims each section of the school community has responsibilities as follows:

**Responsibility of Adults**

All adults should aim to

* Provide a caring and effective learning environment with realistic expectations.
* Show good example through kindness, courtesy, honesty and respect for the needs of others.
* Show appreciation of the efforts and contribution of all and ensure fair treatment for everyone in the school community.
* Discourage physical aggression, encouraging “*Kind Hands, Kind Words, Kind Feet”*

**Role of Teachers**

Teacher’s responsibilities are:

* To maintain a safe and orderly environment within his /her classroom.
* To create a safe, supportive working environment for all children by recognising and affirming pupil’s efforts while also accommodating the individual differences of pupils.
* To be courteous, consistent and fair and to communicate matters of concern to parents.
* To share responsibility with the Principal for promoting respect for and adherence to the Code of Behaviour throughout the school generally.

**Role of the Board of Management:**

The Board of Management has ultimate responsibility for behaviour in the school and a duty to ensure that a fair code is applied. The Board of Management supports the Principal and staff in the implementation of the Code of Behaviour. The Board further supports the Principal and staff by providing for professional training that supports the needs of the school. The Principal reports serious breaches of behaviour or patterns of misbehaviour to the Board of Management. The Board of Management delegates responsibility for up to and including a one -day suspension to the Principal. The Board of Management deals with all other suspensions and expulsions.

**Principal’s Responsibilities:**

* To promote a positive climate in the school
* To ensure that the Code of Behaviour is implemented
* To arrange for the review of the code when required

**Role of Parents**

* To ensure that their children understand and are familiar with the school rules as outlined in the Code of Behaviour.
* To ensure that children attend school punctually, are in uniform and have appropriate books and requirements and a healthy lunch.
* To model a courteous attitude to members of the school community and show respect for school property.
* To request an appointment when a meeting is required and engage positively with measures intended to assist their child’s progress.
* To keep school informed of any problems affecting their child.

As the Board of Management is responsible for the Health & Safety of all staff and students, parents are requested not to approach or reprimand another person’s child on the school premises.

**Role of Pupil:**

All pupils are expected to behave in a responsible manner both towards themselves and others, showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other pupils, staff and visitors at all times.

Pupils’ Responsibilities are:

* To follow all school and class rules
* To listen to staff (Principal, Teachers, SNAs) and act on instruction
* To show respect for ourselves and for all members of the school community
* To come to school on time, in proper school uniform and with all books and requirements

for school

* To take responsibility for our own learning, always to do our best and be willing to help

others

* To show kindness, good manners, be respectful, especially in resolving difficulties and

conflict

* To include other pupils in games and activities

## Class Rules

## In Scoil Chrónáin we aim to develop healthy relationships throughout the school community. This proactive approach is visible throughout the school by our use of circle time, the holding of Wellbeing days, Friendship week and using restorative practice questions to deal with conflict.

At the beginning of each year, each class teacher will assist his/ her class in compiling a short list of class rules in keeping with the school rules. These will be stated positively and applied fairly and consistently. However, their application will take into consideration relevant differences in age and ability of children.

**Incentives and reward systems**

In Scoil Chrónáin we aim to help each child achieve his/her personal best. To support this aim and to ensure the highest possible standards of work and behaviour throughout the school, children will be encouraged, praised and occasionally rewarded for their efforts and personal achievement in both areas. Teachers will continually monitor, encourage and reward good behaviour throughout the school year.

## Unacceptable Behaviour

The school identifies unacceptable behaviours in three categories: Minor, Serious and Gross. Instances of Minor misbehaviour are the responsibility of the class or supervising teacher. Instances of Serious or Gross misbehaviour will be resolved in consultation with parents, the class teacher and/or the Principal/ Deputy Principal. Parent/guardians who have concerns about instances of misbehaviour are asked to make an appointment to discuss these firstly with the class teacher.

Incidents of bullying will be dealt with in the same manner as breaches of discipline and as outlined in the anti-bullying policy.

Use of technology is subject to the school’s Acceptable Use Policy

*Examples of minor misbehaviour include:*

* Bringing electronic equipment to school or having a mobile-phone
* Not wearing appropriate uniform; bringing in chewing-gum
* Not following instructions.

*Examples of serious misbehaviour include:*

* Behaviour that is hurtful (including bullying, harassment, discrimination and victimisation)
* Behaviour that interferes with teaching and learning
* Threats or physical hurt to another person
* Damage to property
* Theft
* Bringing dangerous equipment to school
* Leaving school/school activities without permission.

*Examples of gross misbehaviour include*:

Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher or a pupil

* Assault on a teacher or pupil
* Serious theft
* Serious damage to property
* Serious bullying
* Carrying drugs, alcohol, cigarettes

Should a parent/guardian have any concerns which need to be discussed with a teacher, all staff members are more than willing to facilitate a meeting, made through the proper channels i.e. a phone call to the office, or a note to the class teacher to arrange a convenient time for both parties. The first person to be informed should be the class teacher. This arrangement ensures that all concerns are dealt with in a dignified, meaningful manner, without infringing on valuable teaching time.

**Sanctions**

If / when a child continues to breach the Code of Behaviour, despite the appropriate reminder, explanation, reasoning or reprimand from the teacher, further sanctions may be required in order to bring about a change in the behaviour. The purpose of any such sanction is to demonstrate to the pupil the importance of taking personal responsibility for the choices made and to ensure that he/she understands the effect of the misbehaviour on themselves and others.

Sanctions may include loss of privilege (including attending a school outing), temporary separation from peers within class, temporary removal from class, writing an account of the misdemeanour, collection from school by a parent/ guardian, extra work or break-time detention and will be appropriate to the scale and nature of the misdemeanour. In cases where the above sanctions do not effect a change, the class teacher and principal will consult with parents to develop an appropriate behaviour management plan.

If there is no improvement at this stage the parent/guardian will be called to meet with the Principal and the Chairperson of the Board of Management where the situation will be discussed in detail. Guidelines will be drawn up for future behaviour in school.

If a parent refuses to meet with a class teacher the matter will be referred to the Principal. Any refusal to meet with the Principal and/or Chairperson will automatically be referred to the Board of Management and be regarded as a serious breach of co-operation with our school code of behaviour.

## Suspension and Expulsion

Before serious sanctions such as detention, suspension or expulsion are used, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Communication with parents may be verbal or by letter depending on the circumstances.

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

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 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. 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 authorises 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 Rules for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000. Before suspending or expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Education Welfare Officer in writing in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.

**Removal of Suspension (Reinstatement)**

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 to the class.

**Children with Special Needs**

While all children are required to comply with the Code of Behaviour, children with special educational needs will receive particular consideration. Their cognitive development will be taken into account at all times and the advice and recommendations of other professionals will be followed. Teachers will work closely with their parents to ensure that they have all the support necessary to enable them to comply with the Code of Behaviour. Class or schoolmates of any child with special needs will be taught peer support strategies and encouraged to help that child to comply with the Code of Behaviour.

**Communicating with Parents**

Communicating with parents is central in maintaining a positive approach to children’s behaviour. Parents are kept informed of matters relating to their child’s behaviour in a number of ways – letters, notes in homework journal or occasionally a telephone call. Parents are welcome to make an appointment to discuss their child’s behaviour. They are encouraged to avail of such opportunities to speak in confidence to teachers about any significant developments (past or present) in a child’s life, which may affect the child’s behaviour. The school will not discuss any pupil with a parent, other than their own.

This school code of behaviour has been prepared in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) in compliance with Section 23 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000.

The schools Acceptable Use Policy and Anti-bullying policy are part of the Code of Behaviour.

It has been formulated by the principal and teachers in consultation with parents.

It has been presented to and endorsed by the Board of Management and will be reviewed at regular intervals.

Reviewed by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson