

Code of Behaviour

Related Policies available on request:

1. Anti-Bullying
2. Health & Safety Statement
3. Admission and Participation (Enrolment) Policy
4. Child Protection Policy.

Introduction

Faithlegg N.S. aims to provide a happy, secure, friendly, learning environment, where children, parents, teachers, special needs assistants, ancillary staff and Board of Management work in partnership. Each individual is valued, encouraged and respected for their uniqueness and facilitated to reach their full potential in a positive atmosphere. This will enable the child to live a full life and will equip him/her to avail himself/herself of further education so that he/she may go on to live a full and useful life as an adult in society.

The staff are committed to the realisation of these Objectives. Our aim is to create a happy, secure environment for our pupils in which there is a sense of good order and a reasonable approach to discipline. In this way, a large group can be organised so that the school can operate smoothly for the benefit of all.

This revised Code of Behaviour comes into effect on 1-9-2013. The code has been considered by the Parents Association, Staff and approved by the Board of Management. The code is mindful of the Curriculum, the school's Health & Safety Statement, Anti-Bullying Policy, Admission and Participation Policy and Child Protection Policy.

Discipline for Learning (DFL)

In Faithlegg N.S., we have a positive approach to teaching and learning. Positive rules for behaviour in class and out of class are learned by pupils at the beginning of their school year. Pupils are disciplined by being motivated to keep these rules. We have many ways of recognizing good behaviour and effort including awards, stamps, positive cards, smiles, positive comments and homework passes. Good behaviour and achievement will be recognised. Consistent positive influences are the key to success in our school.

General Guidelines for Behaviour

All pupils are expected to behave in a reasonable manner both to themselves and to others, showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other pupils and adults at all times. Respect must be shown at all times. Respect must be shown for the property of the individual and of the school at all times.

Code of Behaviour

The code of Behaviour covers the following areas:

- Behaviour in class
- Behaviour in the playground
- Behaviour in the school environment and behaviour on school outings
- Attendance at school/Education Welfare Act

- Homework after school and extra-curricular activities

Behaviour in class

Courtesy and respect are essential. Disrespectful behaviour towards other pupils or towards other pupils or towards a teacher (e.g. defiance, cheek, insolence) are unacceptable. Pupils must respect the right of other pupils to learn. Any behaviour which interferes with the right (e.g. constant disruption of the class, persistent distracting of others) is considered unacceptable behaviour.

In order that pupils benefit from their work in class, full co-operation is required at all times. Pupils must co-operate with instructions given by the teacher.

The Essential Classroom Rules

1. Be ready for class
2. Good manners are expected at all times
3. Always do your best and allow others to do the same
4. Raise hand wait for attention and listen to the person who is speaking
5. Take good care of personal and classroom property
6. Ensure you are safe in class and make it safe for others

Behaviour in the Playground

Pupils should treat others as they would like to be treated themselves. Any behaviour which endangers or offends others is not permitted. Rough behaviour e.g. fighting, kicking, spitting, pushing is forbidden. Games or activities considered to be dangerous shall be prohibited.

Any behaviour which interferes with other pupils play is not permitted. Pupils may not leave the playground for any reason during breaks without permission of the supervising teacher, this includes re-entering the school building.

Rules for School Playground.

1. Stay within the boundaries of the yard
2. Play safely and fairly. No running at 10.45a.m. break for the safety of all children. Treat others fairly, the way you would like yourself to be treated.
3. Keep yard and school environment litter free and tidy
4. Respect all school property
5. Children are only allowed back into the school during lunch if they need to go to the toilet or if they are sick. They must always ask permission from the teacher in the yard.
6. Line up quickly and quietly and leave and return to your classroom in an orderly fashion.

Behaviour in the School Environment & Behaviour on School Outings

Respect and courtesy to others is essential. Any kind of verbal or physical abuse of other pupils is unacceptable. Use of foul language among pupils is unacceptable. Bullying or intimidation of other pupils is prohibited and is always regarded as a serious offence. Pupils must show respect for school property at all times. For reasons of safety and to minimise accidents, pupils should move about the school in an orderly manner.

Pupils are encouraged to be respectful of each other on their way to and from school. When on school outings pupils are expected to behave in an orderly manner and show respect for public property. They should always co-operate fully with their teachers and special needs staff.

Attendance/Education Welfare Act

Under the Education Welfare Act, absences or lateness must be explained by a brief note written in school journal and signed by parent. Absences of 20 days or more must be referred by the school to the Education Welfare Board. Any child wishing to leave school early must have a note / telephone call from their parent. The Education Welfare Officer is available to support parents with attendance issues. Children with hospital or dental appointments on an ongoing basis should give a copy of appointments to office secretary. Daily attendance and punctuality are required from pupils. School starts at 9.00a.m. each morning. After a pupil has been absent, a note from the parents must always be brought to the class teacher upon the pupil's return to school. When a pupil has to leave school early (i.e. before 2.40pm) a note from parents must be brought to the class teacher stating the time at which the pupil is to leave.

Homework

Please refer to the school Homework Policy.

Jewellery

Students are permitted to wear stud earrings and watch only.

Mobile phones/IPods/Electronic Games

Use of mobile phones, IPods and electronic games during school hours is strictly forbidden. Any infringement of this rule will involve the confiscation of the phone and any other electronic equipment and will only be returned to the parent or guardian of the pupil.

School Uniform

All pupils must wear the school uniform.

School journal

The school journal is an important communication tool between parents and the school. Please read and sign the journal each night. Please ensure the personal information page in your school journal is completed.

School Discipline

The misbehaviour of pupils is divided into three categories.

1. Minor Misdemeanours
2. Serious Misdemeanours
3. Gross Misdemeanours.

Minor Misdemeanours.

- Talking/ Eating during class
- Chewing gum in school
- No homework done without an acceptable excuse
- Not lining up properly after breaks.
- Running in playground during small break
- Rough play

Sanctions

- Verbal reprimand
- Extra homework
- Withdrawal from play (Time out)
- Written Exercises as punishment.

Serious Misdemeanours

- Constant disobedience
- Homework not done constantly
- Failure to perform tasks set as punishment
- Continuous disruptive behaviour in class
- Fighting, kicking, punching, spitting in school yard
- Bullying – use of physical and/or verbal intimidation
- Mocking other pupils
- Making remarks of a racist nature
- Use of mobile phone during the course of the day.

Sanctions

Removal of 'privileges' eg. School tours, games, field trips, educational visits

- Withdrawal from play – Time out
- Extra homework
- Temporary removal of child to another classroom
- Pupil must apologise for offence

Gross Misdemeanours

- Use of bad language to teachers/ staff members
- Showing deliberate disrespect to teachers/ staff members
- Causing deliberate damage to school property, property of staff member or property of other pupils
- Theft
- Persistent breaking of school rules
- Physical Assault on a staff member or pupil
- Smoking
- Misuse of prescribed drugs

Sanctions

- Parents to meet Principal and teacher at school
- Suspension imposed by Board of Management
- Child to be re-admitted to class after he/she apologises for the offence and an undertaking is given in writing and signed by parent(s) that such misbehaviour will not occur again.

Suspension

This procedure is used in the case of gross misbehaviour and or health & safety grounds:

1. If there is a single incident of gross misbehaviour the Principal requests a meeting with the parents. If considered warranted the Principal reserves the right to

suspend the pupil for 3 days initially. This power of suspension is delegated to the principal by the school Board of Management.

2. In certain circumstances the Principal with the approval of the Chairperson of the BoM may suspend a pupil for 5 school days
3. A meeting of the BoM may authorise further suspension up to a maximum of 10 days. Suspension will be in accordance with Section 23 of the Education Welfare Act 2000.

Appeal

Parents of a pupil who has been suspended for 20 school days or more are entitled under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 to appeal such a suspension.

Expulsion

This procedure may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with Section 23 of the Education Welfare Act 2000.

Grounds for Expulsion

- Behaviour is persistent cause of significant disruption to the learning of others or to the teaching process
- Continued presence of pupil constitutes a real and significant threat to safety
- Pupil is responsible for serious damage to property.

Automatic Expulsion

BoM may sanction automatic expulsion for certain prescribed behaviours:

1. Sexual Assault
2. Possession of illegal drugs
3. Supplying illegal drugs to other pupils in the school
4. Actual violence or physical assault
5. Serious threat of violence against another pupil or member of staff.

Procedures in Respect to Expulsion

1. Detail investigation by School Principal
2. Recommendation by Principal to BoM
3. BoM considers Principals recommendation and holds hearing
4. BoM decision, is expulsion appropriate? If BoM recommends expulsion, the BoM will propose a date which will allow a 20-day cooling off period
5. Education Welfare Officer is informed of proposal to expel pupil and effective date of that proposal
6. Parents of the pupil are informed of rights to invoke a Section 29 appeal under the Education Act 1998
7. Education Welfare Officer arranges consultations
8. Confirmation of decision.

Conclusion

The essence of our code of behaviour is respecting others and encouraging the children to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and to develop self discipline.

Ratification

This Policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Faithlegg N.S. August 2013