

REWARDS and SANCTIONS

The use of sanctions is an important element in the school code. They are used in a corrective way and are intended to help the child to change and improve his or her behavioural patterns.

- The nature of the misbehaviour and the age of the child will determine the strategy to be employed

Rewards for good behaviour

- Oral and written praise. Pupil's journal is used to convey messages of approval from teachers.
- Yearly Reports.
- Small prizes, merit stars.
- Privileges such as extra video at Christmas, extra P.E., Art, computer etc.
- A word of praise in front of a group or class
- Delegating some special responsibility or privilege
- Teacher records improvement in the behaviour of a disruptive pupil
- Implementation of Programmes such as *Circle Time* to promote positive behaviour

The above list is not comprehensive and consists of examples only.

Strategies and sanctions

Sanctions are applied according to the seriousness of the offence.

- Reasoning with pupil
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
- Temporary separation from peers, friends and others. – Person on Yard Duty should exercise their discretion in this regard, taking into consideration prevailing climatic conditions
- Loss of privileges.
- Prescribing extra work.
- Communication with parents (see Appendix 2)
- Referral to the Principal
- Referral to the Chairperson
- Referral to the Board of Management
- Suspension (temporary)

The above list is not comprehensive and consists of examples only.

Disciplinary Actions and Sanctions to deal with Misdemeanours:

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

Examples of Minor Misdemeanours:

Interrupting class work/ arriving late for school/ running in school building/not listening and speaking out of turn/leaving seat without permission at break or lunch time/ placing unfinished food in bins/ leaving litter around school/ not wearing correct uniform/ being discourteous or unmannerly/ not completing homework without good reason/ bringing sweets and bars to school/ wearing jewellery (Jewellery is not allowed except for one small stud earring in the bottom of each ear and a watch)/ wearing make-up / belongings not named/unsuitable hairstyles, hair not tied back / not bringing explanation notes for absences and homework/ wearing unsuitable shoes/ cycling in school grounds

Examples of steps to be taken by teachers when dealing with Minor Misdemeanours

- The class teacher will normally deal with classroom misdemeanours.
- Verbal reprimand and reasoning with the pupil, including advice on how to improve, setting realistic targets.
- Time out from friends and others (to reflect on the misbehaviour).
- Loss of privileges such as ‘Golden Time’, Game time, extra recreation time etc. (not PE/Art)
- Note in homework journal or other to parents.

Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with REGULAR occurrences of Minor Misdemeanours:

- A record is kept of regular instances of misdemeanour.
- Class teacher meets with parent(s)/guardian. Communicating with parents sooner rather than later.
- Principal/Deputy Principal meets parent(s)/guardians concerning behaviour.

Examples of Serious Misdemeanours:

Constantly disruptive in class/ telling lies/stealing/damaging or interfering with another person’s property/bullying/back answering a teacher/leaving school premises during school day without appropriate permission/ using or writing unacceptable language/ bringing chewing gum, glass bottles, correction fluids or other solvents to school/ deliberately injuring a fellow pupil or partaking in any activity which would put themselves or others in danger/ deliberately leaving taps on/ misuse of fire equipment.

Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with Serious Misdemeanours:

- A record is kept of all serious misdemeanours.
- Pupils may be removed from activity if endangering self or others
- Pupil is sent to Principal/Deputy Principal.
- Principal/Deputy Principal contacts parent/guardian
- Suspension procedures may follow if deemed necessary by the school authorities.

Examples of Gross Misdemeanours:

Deliberately vandalizing school property/ aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards any member of staff or pupils. Bringing alcohol, drugs, cigarettes or matches to school or on any school related activities.

Examples of steps to be taken when dealing with Gross Misdemeanours:

- A record is kept
- Principal/Deputy Principal contacts parent/guardian
- Suspension or expulsion may be considered

Procedure for Suspension:

- Parents are invited to meet with sub-committee, Principal and/or chairperson to discuss the gross incident of misdemeanour or serious misdemeanour.
- Communication to parents regarding the suspension of a pupil or the possibility of suspension will be in writing.

- A written statement of the terms and date of termination of a suspension will be given to parents.
- If the suspension of a pupil is for **six days**, the Principal informs the Education Welfare Officer in writing.
- When a period of suspension ends, the pupil should be re-admitted formally to class by the Principal/Deputy Principal.
- Where a satisfactory resolution of a problem is achieved, a pupil may be re-admitted to school within a suspension period at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Board and Principal.

Procedure for Expulsion:

- The above procedures for suspension are followed in the case of expelling a pupil from the school.
- Prior to the expulsion of a pupil the Education Welfare Officer must be notified in writing of the school's intention **twenty** days in advance.

Success Criteria: (by which the policy will be judged)

- Atmosphere of discipline within the school
- Children are aware of school rules
- Staff apply school rules
- Growth in self discipline
- Co-operation between parents, teachers and pupils in maintaining the code.
- Comments or compliments on behaviour.
- Children working to the best of their ability
- Class working to the best of their ability
- Improvements in behaviour

Monitoring & Review:

Each staff member is responsible for the implementation of the Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy. Within the classroom the teacher monitors his/her class. Teachers consider themselves responsible for the behaviour of children within sight or sound of them and respond to any instance of unacceptable behaviour. The principal is responsible for monitoring and reviewing Policy at staff level on a regular basis and reports any review the staff deem necessary to the Board of Management.

The Board of Management (BOM) has ultimate responsibility for discipline in the school under its management and a duty to ensure that a fair code of discipline applies therein. The BOM will ensure the Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policy is reviewed yearly or more often if the need arises.