



CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Aims:

- a) In devising the code, consideration has to be given to the particular needs and circumstances of An Mhodscoil. The aim is to create an orderly and secure 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 of Discipline Policy:

If An Mhodscoil is to achieve a happy, secure environment in which children can develop to their full potential, it is necessary to provide a framework, which promotes constructive behaviour and discourages unacceptable behaviour. The School Code places a greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions, and the ideal is that pupils will acquire the skills of self-discipline. There are times however when it may be necessary to impose sanctions in order to maintain good order, and to discourage offenders. An Mhodscoil recognises the variety of differences which exist between children, and the need to accommodate these differences. School rules are kept to a minimum, and are devised with regard for the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community. 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 and pupils. Every effort will be made to ensure that the code of discipline is implemented in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner.

Role of parents

The support and cooperation of parents are essential to the effective operation of the Code of Behaviour. If teachers and parents are not working in harmony, inevitably, the pupils will suffer. Parents will be informed at an early stage if problems occur and not simply at the point where possible suspensions are involved. Parents are invited to keep in close contact with the school with regard to all aspects of the child's progress.

SCHOOL RULES:

Be Gentle	Don't hurt anyone
Be kind and helpful	Don't hurt people's feelings
Be honest	Don't cover up the truth
Work hard	Don't waste time
Look after property	Don't waste or damage things or take things that don't belong to you.
Listen to people	Don't interrupt

Respect and Courtesy:

All pupils are expected to treat staff, their fellow pupils and visitors with respect and courtesy at all times. The use of foul language and any form of bullying is unacceptable.

Punctuality:

The official opening time is 8.50 a.m. Classes for infants end at 1.30 p.m. classes for the other pupils end at 2.30 p.m.

No responsibility is accepted for the pupils outside of these times.

Personal Property:

Children should have their names on their coats and other personal property such as school books, copies etc.



School Property and the School Environment:

Pupils must respect all school property, and keep the school environment clean and litter free. The playground is a litter free zone. To protect the environment the school is involved in various projects:

- *Recycling:* Waste paper and cardboard are collected for recycling
- *Healthy Eating:* See Healthy Eating Policy

Uniform

Full school uniform must be worn except when otherwise stipulated.

Hair Style

Cultist hairstyles are not allowed. We encourage hairstyles to be kept neat and tidy - with hair in its natural colour.

Mobile Phones:

Camera phones are prohibited. All mobile phones are to be switched off in class except with prior approval of Principal or person in charge. Children are not allowed to use mobile phones between 8.30am – 2.30pm while on the school premises.

Safety

In the interest of safety:

1. Pupils are not allowed to open or close windows
2. Pupils must eat their lunches in the classroom
3. Pupils are not allowed to wear jewellery (except watches)
4. Cycling in school grounds is forbidden
5. Children are allowed to lift chairs only
6. Children staying on at school for after school activities are not allowed to leave the school premises at 2.30pm.

Behaviour in Class

- Pupils must have all books and required materials.
- Pupils are expected to work to the best of their ability, and to present written exercises neatly.
- They are to show respect for their classmates and to follow their teacher's instructions.
- Any behaviour that interferes with the rights of others is unacceptable.
- Pupils must not behave in such a manner as to disrupt class or cause unnecessary disruption.
- Pupils must not behave in such a manner as to disrupt class work or to cause unnecessary disturbance.
- It is school policy that every pupil listens to the class teacher, works hard; making best use of their time in school and does their best.

Behaviour in the Playground:

- All pupils have a right to enjoy their time out in the playground in a safe environment at break periods.
- Misdemeanour consists of any action that puts the safety of self or others at risk.
- Fighting, rough play or any physical force is never allowed or tolerated.
- In the interests of safety, climbing on the school railings is strictly forbidden.
- In the interest of safety when the bell rings during playtimes the children stop playing, stand in their places and move to their class lines only when directed. Children do not enter the school building without getting permission from teachers.



Behaviour out of class

- Pupils must not behave in any way which endangers themselves or others.
- Any instructions or directions given by a teacher are to be complied with.
- Children must line up in an orderly manner at the end of the break.
- Running is forbidden on the corridors and in classrooms.
- Any form of threatening behaviour is unacceptable. If children are being bullied, teachers must be told so that the matter can be dealt with effectively.
- Classes must keep to their defined play areas, and no child must leave that area without permission.
- Certain designated games, which involve rough play and intimidation, are banned. *These are reviewed each year in consultation with the children to include new games and changing trends.*
- Pupils are requested to behave themselves coming to and from school.
- Rules of the Road must be observed.

Wet days:

- Sharp implements are used only when a teacher is in the classroom
- Children do activities in class based on the class teacher's instructions or supervising teacher's instructions.
- Children are not allowed to use tin-whistles on wet days.
- Children are expected to stay in their places on wet days.

Swimming days:

- Every pupil listens to and obeys the class teacher.
- Children walk in line behind the teacher to the swimming pool. No running allowed.
- No shouting or playing in dressing rooms.
- Every pupil listens to and obeys the instructor and life guard
- No running around pool area
- Swimming caps required. Shower socks may be worn.
- Children do not leave the pool without permission from the instructor or teacher
- No jumping into the pool from the side – unless under the instructor's directions. No pushing or rough play in the pool
- Children are expected to dress quickly after each session
- Hairsprays/gels/spray deodorants are not allowed. Roll-on deodorants are allowed for 4th – 6th class pupils. Shampoo is allowed.
- No drinks/sweets are bought from the machine.

Educational Tour Rules:

- Pupil/adult ratio - 20:1
- Class teacher arranges tour for his/her class
- Class teacher collects permission slips and money
- An Mhodscoil provides a cheque to pay for tour bus and or venue in exchange for cash/cheques collected from children. This is in the interest of security.
- Pupils enter/leave the bus in an orderly manner



- Pupils are expected to arrive **15 minutes** before departure time. Parents are expected to contact the school 15 minutes before departure time if child is sick or unable to attend.
- School Rules apply to school tours
- Teachers will have mobile phones on tour if parents/ children need to get in contact with one another.
- On the bus pupils must sit in their seats, wear seat belts at all times and avoid loudness that would distract the driver
- Pupils are encouraged to take drinks and sweets at the appointed lunch breaks.
- Pupils stay in their appointed groups at all times.
- Pupils wear uniform on school tours, unless otherwise stated.
- Parental/Guardian permission slips allowing a) the child to go on tour and b) the teacher the right to authorize any medical or surgical procedure necessary are returned to the teacher prior to the tour.
- Parents/guardians are requested to be at the school at least 15 minutes before the expected return time.

In registering children in An Mhodscoil parents are expected to support teachers in following the policies and procedures of the school. A copy of all policies and procedures is available for view by all parents. Parents are informed at the start of every school year that they may receive a copy of all policies and procedures if they so wish.