

## EDMONDSTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL



### Code of Behaviour

Our aim is that children achieve the capacity for self discipline commensurate with their age.

Due to the fact that the total numbers in Edmondstown NS are relatively small, and that each member of the staff knows the children well, it is agreed that rules for discipline ought to be kept to a minimum with the emphasis on good behaviour (***catch them when they're good approach***).

Our primary focus is the SPHE curriculum which *"promotes intrapersonal development by helping children to recognize, understand and accept themselves as unique individuals who feel valued and loved. It provides particular opportunities to nurture self-worth and self confidence, helping the child to set and assess his/her own goals and to be able to manage his/her own behaviour"*<sup>1</sup>

As the parents are acknowledged as the primary educator of the child, their involvement gives the school a sound basis for discipline. The emphasis in the school is on positive reinforcement with each class employing reward strategies for good behaviour. We consider the Code of Behaviour as functioning in a pastoral rather than punitive atmosphere.

#### Appropriate behaviour in the classroom

Children are encouraged to have and to be able to express freely their own thoughts, ideas and preferences with manners, politeness and consideration for others.

Children are required to work quietly while their teacher is teaching another group and to raise their hand quietly to answer questions.

At certain times, silence is required.

Shouting and running in classrooms is not allowed.

Children are expected to respect school property and other children's property.

Children are encouraged to keep their work, their belongings and their school tidy and orderly.

On rainy days, when they have to spend the break time in class, children must remain in their seats.

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<sup>1</sup> SPHE curriculum Introduction p.3

### Appropriate behaviour in the yard

Children are encouraged to play carefully during their breaks. Rough, physical play, pushing and shoving is discouraged during yard time. Children are expected to be fair and kind to all children. Use of abusive language and name calling is upsetting for everyone concerned and is not acceptable. Pupils are encouraged to talk out their differences. If such differences cannot be sorted out between pupils, they are encouraged to come and report the matter to the teacher on duty or to their class teacher.

Break times are from 10.30 - 10.40 a.m. and from 12.00 - 12.30 p.m. The teacher on duty must be on the yard before the children are let out. The class teacher ensures that all children leave the room. Once on the yard, no pupil re-enters the school without permission from the teacher on duty. When break time is over, pupils line up with their class mates and when instructed, they walk in and prepare for the next lesson.

### School Timetable

School opens at	8.45 a.m.
Classes start at	9.00 a.m.
Classes finish at	1.30 p.m. for the Infants and 2.30 p.m. for the 1 <sup>st</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> classes

**The Board of Management is not responsible for children on the premises before 8.45 a.m. or after 2.30 p.m. In the interests of the children's safety, please bear this in mind.**

If regular collection arrangements change, the school should be informed by means of a written note in the child's journal. The duration of the new arrangement should also be specified.

### Attendance

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child attends school regularly. It is in your child's interest to ensure, not only that he/she attends regularly, but is also punctual.

Notes are required

- a) Following a child's absence from school stating the reason for absence;
- b) If a child has to leave the school during school hours.

When a child has erratic attendance or is absent for more than twenty days in a school year, Tusla will be contacted as a matter of procedure. This is in accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2000.

This policy regarding attendance is communicated to all pupils at the beginning of the school year. All teachers ensure that notes or messages regarding absences forwarded to them, are recorded on Aladdin - our automated roll book.

If a concern is raised in relation to the attendance of any pupil, this is brought to the attention of the Principal, who will make further enquiries and take the necessary steps to resolve the situation by contacting the child's parents directly.

### **Dealing with misbehaviour**

- 1 The child is made aware that his / her behaviour is unacceptable and receives a verbal reprimand from the teacher.
- 2 If a child is in possession of an item which is distracting him / her from work, the teacher will instruct the child to put it away. The teacher may confiscate the item for a period of time and return it when appropriate.
- 3 At times it may become necessary to move the child within the classroom or to another classroom to make sure the work is done and to avoid further disruption to the class.
- 4 If misbehaviour is serious, the class teacher will note the misbehaviour twice. A note will be sent home by the class teacher at this stage informing the parents of the child's misbehaviour.
- 5 In the event of a further incident of misbehavior then the class teacher will refer the child to the Principal.
- 6 If such misbehaviour continues, an arrangement will be made for the parents to come to the school to discuss the child's behaviour with the class teacher and the Principal.
- 7 In instances of repeated serious misbehaviour, the parents will be required to meet with the Chairperson of the Board of Management and the Principal and they will have to give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the school.
- 8 If serious misbehaviour continues, the Board of Management may suspend the pupil for a temporary period in accordance with rule 130(5) of the Rules for National Schools.
- 9 The Board of Management will authorise a further period of suspension up to a maximum of ten days and in exceptional circumstances, the Board may authorise a further period of suspension.

- 10      Expulsion may be considered in extreme cases in accordance with rule 130(6) of the Rules for National Schools.
  - 11      In the case of gross misbehaviour, the Board of Management, having informed the parents, may authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension.
  - 12      Recompense is expected to be made by pupils or their parents for damage to, loss or theft of property.
- \*\*      Discretion can be used by the class teacher and/or the Principal with regard to dealing with misbehaviour of a child with special needs.\*\*

Signed: **Rev. Fr. R. Lyng OSA**      Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019

(Chairperson of the Board of Management)

Signed: **Philomena Cleary**      Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019

(Principal)