

# SCOIL ASSAIM BEHAVIOUR POLICY

## **Introductory Statement and Rationale:**

All children have a right to be educated in a safe and caring environment. Our school is a caring community, a place where every pupil is valued equally. It was considered important, therefore, that this policy should reflect Scoil Assaim's philosophy and ethos, as outlined in the school's Mission Statement: *To educate each child to the best of his ability, and to lead pupils to early adolescence in the happy development of all their gifts and talents.*

This Behaviour Policy was reviewed and updated in May 2019.

## **Aims:**

- To allow the school to function in an orderly and harmonious way, where pupils can make progress in all aspects of their development
- To create an atmosphere of respect, tolerance and consideration for others
- To promote positive behaviour and self-discipline, recognising the differences between children and the need to accommodate these differences
- To ensure the safety and well being of all members of the school community
- To assist parents and pupils in understanding the systems and procedures that form part of our code, and to seek their co-operation in the application of these procedures
- To ensure that the system of rules, rewards and sanctions is implemented in a fair and consistent manner

## **Guidelines for Behaviour:**

- Pupils are expected to be well behaved and to show respect and consideration for other children and adults
- Pupils are expected to show respect for the property of the school, and their own and other children's belongings
- Pupils are expected to be punctual and to attend school regularly
- Pupils are expected to do their best both in school and for homework
- Pupils are expected to uphold the guidelines for behaviour during school trips and when representing the school at various out-of-school activities

## ***Parents are asked to note the following:***

- Uniforms: boys are expected to wear complete school uniform each day. The school tracksuit may be worn on P.E. days
- A pupil's absence from school must be notified to the class teacher by a parent or guardian; this can be done via Aladdin
- Pupils entering the school grounds before 8.40 a.m. or remaining thereon after 2.45 p.m. are not covered by school insurance, unless they are taking part in a school-organised activity
- Mobile phones and smart devices must be kept in school bags, switched off at all times until pupils leave the school premises. This rule also applies to all school trips and outings
- The school authorities do not accept responsibility for the loss of, theft of or damage to property of pupils in excess of school requirements e.g. bicycles, watches, money, mobile phones, smart devices etc

## **Whole school approach to promoting positive behaviour:**

### **Staff:**

- In Scoil Assaim, we recognise the importance of taking a whole-school approach to promoting and acknowledging positive behaviour; a strong sense of community and co-operation is maintained among staff, pupils and parents
- All pupils are treated with respect and dignity
- The school's SPHE curriculum is used to support the Behaviour Policy; this aims to develop communication skills, appropriate ways of interacting and behaving, and conflict resolution skills. It also helps foster self-esteem, and enables pupils to accommodate diversity

### **Board of Management:**

- The Board of Management supports the Principal in the application of a fair code of behaviour within the school.
- The Board of Management has been consulted in the ratification of this Behaviour Policy

### **Parents:**

- Our school prides itself on a high level of co-operation between pupils, parents and teachers
- Our school acknowledges the support of parents in achieving and maintaining high standards of behaviour
- Our school prides itself on a high level of co-operation between pupils, parents and teachers
- This Behaviour Policy, along with the school's Anti-Bullying Policy, is available on the Scoil Assaim website; parents may request a printed copy from the school secretary: [secretary@scoilassaim.com](mailto:secretary@scoilassaim.com)
- Parents support the school in maintaining high standards of behaviour by encouraging their children to abide by school rules, ensuring their children are in school on time, and that homework is completed to a satisfactory level

### **Pupils:**

- Pupils were consulted in the development of this Behaviour Policy
- Pupils are involved in drafting rules for the classroom, and are encouraged to sign up to these rules on an annual basis
- 'Ground rules' in each class are consistent with the ethos of the school and are expressed in positive terms
- Teachers ensure that pupils understand how they are expected to behave
- A clear system for rewarding good behaviour, and imposing sanctions for misbehaviour, is consistently applied.

## **Positive strategies for managing behaviour:**

The five key elements of our Behaviour Policy are:

- Be Safe
- Be Honest
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be The Best You Can Be!

### **Yard:**

- A concise set of yard rules emphasises positive behaviour and makes clear what activities are permitted; all teachers and pupils are aware of yard rules. Our five key elements provide the foundation for these rules
- Clearly outlined arrangements for supervision at yard times are in place
- Zones within the yard are clearly marked and communicated to the pupils

- Pupils must abide by class rules on wet days when staying in class during break-time
- All pupils comply with the 'freeze system' at the end of yard time
- All pupils line up quietly when the bell rings
- Clearly outlined arrangements are in place for supervision of pupils who remain inside at break times due to illness or injury. Pupils must have a note from a parent requesting they be kept in, and must sit quietly outside the office with a suitable activity
- Clear procedures are in place to manage incidents of misbehaviour: reasoning, verbal reprimand, temporary separation from peers through time-out on the step and reporting to classroom teacher. The serious warning system will also be implemented when necessary

### **Rewards and Sanctions:**

#### ***Rewards and acknowledgement of good behaviour:***

- Rewards within class are at the discretion of individual class teachers
- Any pupil whose work and behaviour is considered satisfactory can earn points towards a homework pass
- 'Pupil of the Week' is often used to acknowledge and reward good behaviour
- Pupils can earn points towards 'Golden Time' on Friday as recognition of positive behaviour

#### ***Strategies for dealing with unacceptable behaviour:***

Behaviours are categorised as minor or serious misdemeanours. The degree of misdemeanour will be judged by the teacher and/or Principal, based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity and frequency of such misdemeanours. Teachers will make every effort to understand the reasons leading to incidents of misbehaviour and, when applying sanctions, will focus on the behaviour rather than the person. Pupils will not be deprived of engagement in a curricular area as punishment for misbehaviour.

#### ***The following are considered to be minor breaches of discipline:***

- Minor disruption of class work
- Failure to complete homework assignments without adequate reason given by parent or guardian
- Rough play
- Name-calling or bad language
- Not staying within play area
- Running on corridors or pushing on stairs
- Lack of punctuality on a regular basis
- Less serious incidents of vandalism

#### ***The following are regarded as serious breaches of discipline and may be punished by suspension:***

- Disrespect towards a teacher by word or deed
- Bullying (see our school Anti-Bullying policy)
- Violent behaviour towards another pupil causing him, or putting him at risk of, serious injury. As a general rule, retaliation is not accepted as an excuse
- Vandalism to property
- Leaving the school grounds without permission from a teacher
- Repeated incidents of less serious breaches

Misbehaviour is initially dealt with by the class teacher by way of advice or warning but, if it is more serious or persistent, the Principal and/or parents may be involved. The aim of any sanction is to prevent the behaviour occurring again and, if necessary, to help the pupil devise strategies for this. When sanctions are necessary, it must be clear why they are being applied. The consequence must relate as closely as possible to the behaviour, and it must be made clear what changes in behaviour are required to avoid future sanctions. Group punishment should be avoided.

***The following sanctions are used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour:***

- Reasoning with pupil
- Verbal reprimand including advice on how to improve
- Temporary separation from peers within class
- Reflection sheet
- Communication with parents
- Loss of privileges (e.g. exclusion from yard)
- Serious warning issued
- Detention slip issued
- Referral to Principal
- Detention after school (parents notified in advance)
- Exclusion (suspension or expulsion) from school

***Involving parents in the management of unacceptable behaviour:***

Before resorting to serious sanctions, the normal channels of communication between school and parents are utilised:

- Scoil Assaim involves parents at an early stage, rather than as a last resort
- Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they have any concerns
- Parents are kept fully informed from the outset of instances of misbehaviour on the part of their children
- In the case of gross misbehaviour, the Board of Management authorises the Principal to sanction an immediate suspension, pending a discussion on the matter with parents

**Suspension/Expulsion procedures:**

Suspension/expulsion procedures are in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools, as amended by the DES and the Education Welfare Act 2000.

Parents are informed of their right to come to the school, and are invited to do so in order to discuss the misbehaviour with the Principal and/or the class teacher.

In the event that a pupil becomes a danger to himself or to others, the parents will be asked to remove the child immediately, to allow time to put measures in place to ensure the safety of the child and the safety of others.

**Keeping records:**

Teachers keep a written record of all instances of recurring misbehaviour.

**Success Criteria:**

- Observation of positive behaviour in class rooms, playground and school environment
- Practices and procedures listed in this policy being consistently implemented by teachers
- Positive feedback from teachers, parents and pupils

**Implementation and Review:**

This policy came into effect in May 2019. The operation of this policy will be reviewed in May 2021, and thereafter every two years.

***Scoil Assaim Board of Management, May 2019***