

Pastoral care in Carrickmannon Primary School.

Aims and objectives

It is a primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels valued, respected, nurtured and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. The school's behaviour policy is therefore designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment in which everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

The school has a number of rules, but our behaviour policy is not primarily concerned with rule enforcement. It is a means of promoting good relationships, so that people can work together with the common purpose of helping everyone to learn. This policy supports the school community in aiming to allow everyone to work together in an effective and considerate way.

We treat all children fairly and apply this behaviour policy in a consistent way.

This policy aims to help children grow in a safe and secure environment, and to become positive, responsible and increasingly independent members of the school community.

The school rewards good behaviour, as it believes that this will develop an ethos of kindness and cooperation.

Rewards

In Carrickmannon we apply a system of rewards, which are intended to be fair and effective for all pupils.

These rewards are intended to contribute to the ethos of the school and involve all teaching and non teaching staff. They are aimed at promoting and reinforcing good behaviour and promoting self esteem. They encourage each pupil to take responsibility for his/ her actions and to have their efforts and achievements recognised and rewarded.

We praise and reward children for good behaviour in a variety of ways:

- Teachers congratulate children.
- Teachers give children class points.
- Each week, we nominate a child from each class to be 'pupil of the week'.
- We distribute merits to children, either for consistent good work or behaviour, or to acknowledge outstanding effort or acts of kindness in school.

The school acknowledges all the efforts and achievements of children, both in and out of school. The Record of Achievement File contains information regarding children's achievement out of school, e.g. music or swimming certificates.

The school employs a number of sanctions to enforce the school rules, and to ensure a safe and positive learning environment. We employ each sanction appropriately to each individual situation.

- We expect children to listen carefully to instructions in lessons. If they do not do so, we ask them either to move to a place nearer the teacher, or to sit on their own.
- We expect children to try their best in all activities. If they do not do so, we may ask them to redo a task.
- If a child is disruptive in class, the teacher reprimands him or her. If a child misbehaves repeatedly, we isolate the child from the rest of the class until he calms down, and is able to work sensibly again with others.
- The safety of the children is paramount in all situations. If a child's behaviour endangers the safety of others, the class teacher stops the activity and prevents the child from taking part for the rest of that session.
- If a child threatens, hurts or bullies another child, the class teacher records the incident and the child is sent to the principal. If a child repeatedly acts in a way that disrupts or upsets others, the school contacts the child's parents or carers and seeks an appointment in order to discuss the situation, with a view to improving the behaviour of the child.
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The class teacher discusses the school rules with each class. In addition to the school rules, each class also has its own classroom code, which is agreed by the children and displayed on the wall of the classroom. In this way, every child in the school knows the standard of behaviour that we expect in our school. If there are incidents of anti-social behaviour, the class teacher discusses these with the whole class during circle time.

The school does not tolerate bullying of any kind. If we discover that an act of bullying or intimidation has taken place, we act immediately to stop any further occurrences of such behaviour. We expect our pupils to feel comfortable to tell any member of staff if they feel they may be being bullied. We do everything in our power to ensure that all children are safe, happy and achieving their full potential in Carrickmannon Primary School.

Strategies for dealing with incidents of bullying.

Definition

Bullying is a repeated act of aggression causing embarrassment, pain or discomfort to someone else—a one off incident does not constitute bullying. It can take a number of forms: physical, verbal, making gestures, extortion and exclusion. It is an abuse of power. It can be planned and organised, or it may be unintentional. It may be perpetrated by individuals or by groups of pupils.

Through the implementation of the school's positive behaviour policy there will be constant reinforcement of caring, desirable behaviour. This will help foster positive relationships throughout the school.

When an alleged incident is reported the staff will listen to all pupils' concerns. Staff will communicate with all concerned in line with procedures and responsibilities.

Staff will record incidents as appropriate.

The bullying behaviour will be viewed separately from the child.

Suggest acceptable forms of behaviour to the pupils involved.

Acknowledge appropriate behaviour.

Inform principal.

Inform parents and ask for their support.

Monitor and review the situation.

The role of the class teacher

It is the responsibility of class teachers to ensure that the school rules are enforced in their classes, and that their classes behave in a responsible manner during lesson time.

The class teachers in our school have high expectations of the children with regard to behaviour, and they strive to ensure that all children work to the best of their ability.

The class teacher treats each child fairly, and enforces the classroom code consistently. The teachers treat all children in their classes with respect and understanding.

The role of the headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to implement the school behaviour policy consistently throughout the school, and to report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy. It is also the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all children in the school.

The headteacher supports the staff by implementing the policy, by setting the standards of behaviour, and by supporting staff in their implementation of the policy.

The headteacher keeps records of all reported serious incidents of misbehaviour.

The role of parents and carers

The school collaborates actively with parents and carers, so that children receive consistent messages about how to behave at home and at school. We explain the school rules in parent meetings, and we expect parents and carers to support them.

We expect parents and carers to support their child's learning, and to cooperate with the school. We encourage open communication between the home and the school, and we inform parents and carers immediately if we have concerns about their child's welfare or behaviour.

The role of governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on standards of discipline and behaviour, and of reviewing their effectiveness. The governors support the headteacher in adhering to these guidelines.

Drug- and alcohol-related incidents

It is the policy of this school that no child should bring any drug, legal or illegal, to school. If a child needs medication during the school day, the parent or guardian should notify the school and fill in and sign the appropriate form. Any medication should be taken directly to the staff room for safekeeping. Any medication needed by a child while in school must be taken under the supervision of a teacher or other adult worker.

The school will take very seriously misuse of any substances such as glue, other solvents, or alcohol.

If any child is found to be suffering from the effects of alcohol or other substances, arrangements will be made for that child to be taken home.

Monitoring and review

The principal monitors the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis. She also reports to the governing body on the effectiveness of the policy and, if necessary, makes recommendations for further improvements.

The school keeps a variety of records concerning incidents of misbehaviour. The class teacher records minor classroom incidents. The headteacher records incidents in which a child is sent to her on account of unacceptable behaviour. We also keep a record of any inappropriate behaviour that occurs at break or lunchtimes.

The principal will ensure staff training and awareness is relevant and effective so that all are competent in the promotion of the policy.