

Carramore NS Code of Behaviour and Discipline

This policy was updated by the Board of Management in May 2017.

At Carramore we try to encourage positive behaviour. We realise the value of praise and rewards. Positive reinforcement is used as often as possible to encourage self-confidence and good self-image.

Our Golden Rules:

1. We listen. We don't interrupt.
2. We are gentle. We don't hurt others.
3. We are honest. We tell the truth.
4. We are kind. We take care of each other.
5. We work hard. We don't waste time.
6. We look after property. We don't damage things.

The overall responsibility for discipline will rest with the Principal. Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within her classroom, while sharing a common responsibility for good order within the school premises. A pupil will be referred to the Principal for serious breaches of discipline and for repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour. Sanctions will combine a degree of flexibility to take into account individual circumstances. Misbehaviour will be checked immediately after it occurs, and sanctions will make clear to pupils the distinction between minor and more serious misbehaviour.

Teachers will keep a written record of incidences of serious misbehaviour, as well as a record of improvements in the behaviour of disruptive pupils. Before resorting to serious sanctions the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilized. Parents will be involved at an early stage rather than as a last resort.

Communication with parents will be verbal or by letter, depending on circumstances. For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, suspension will be considered. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour, depending on circumstances.

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If parents do not give an undertaking that the pupils will behave in an acceptable manner in the future the pupil may have to be suspended for a temporary period. In the case of gross misbehaviour the Board will authorize the Chairperson or the Principal to sanction an immediate suspension, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents.

Every effort will be made to have an emotionally disturbed child referred for psychological assessment without delay. Help will be sought also from support services within the wider community.

Teachers, Parents and the Board of Management expect a high standard at all times and places from pupils as they are representing their school, families and community.

The following are the school rules which all children must follow:

- All children are expected to be well mannered and courteous at school and at all school related activities and events.
- All children are expected to respect themselves, other pupils, teachers, parents and visitors to the school
- All children are encouraged to co-operate with each other and with their teacher.
- All children are expected to carry out their school work and homework to the best of their ability.
- Children must show respect for school materials and property.
- Children must wear appropriate school uniform every day.
- Children must be on time for school every morning.
- All children must play safely and sensibly on the school yard at all times
- Children must follow the agreed rules drawn up in their own class by their teacher and fellow pupils.
- Rough play, fighting or bad language will not be tolerated.

CYBER-BULLYING:

- Pupils and parents are urged to report all incidents of cyber bullying to the school
- Cyberbullying falls under the remit of the school authorities even where the bullying acts are committed outside of the school. The school reserves the right to take disciplinary action against students who bully members of the school community, whether it occurs in school or outside

of school

- All proven reports of cyber bullying will be investigated, recorded, stored in the Principal's office and monitored regularly
- Where the cyberbullying case has been reported to the Gardaí, the school will engage with the Gardai and support the investigation
- The Gardaí will be contacted by the school in cases of actual or suspected illegal or extreme content

The following sanctions will be used to deal with misbehaviour:

- Reminder of desired behaviour
- Reprimand and reasoning with pupil
- Temporary separation from peers
- Denial of participation in some class activity
- Sending to another teacher
- Principal is made aware of the incident
- Note in homework journal to be signed by a parent
- Class teacher meets one/both parents
- Principal and class teacher meet with parents
- BOM will be informed of serious misdemeanours
- For serious or repeated instances of misbehaviour, the BOM will decide if suspension or expulsion is required

Suspension and Expulsion:

- Suspension will be the last response to the behaviour that is causing concern. Normally, other interventions will have been tried before suspension, and school staff will have reviewed the reasons why these have not worked. The decision to suspend a student requires serious grounds such as that:
 - The pupil's behaviour has had a seriously detrimental effect on the education of other students
 - The pupil's continued presence in the school at this time constitutes a threat to safety
 - The pupil is responsible for serious damage to property.

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- A single incident of serious misconduct may be grounds for suspension/expulsion
- Parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case
- The Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents will be requested to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson, the class teacher and the principal.
- If the parents do not give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future the pupil may be suspended or expelled.
- Suspension or expulsion will be in accordance with the Rules for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000.
- In the case of gross misbehaviour, the Board may authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding ten school days.
- Expulsion can be considered in an extreme case. Before suspending or expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Education Welfare Officer in writing in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.