

Ransboro National School
Sligo

Positive Behaviour Policy

Introductory Statement:

This policy was formulated by the staff of Ransboro National School during summer course 2010.

Relationship to the Characteristic Spirit of the School:

Our school aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of each individual pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and other people. We take great pride in promoting our Christian values of respect, honesty, kindness and gentleness and this underpins our Positive Behaviour Policy.

Rationale:

To provide a secure, safe and positive learning environment in our school for all the stakeholders.

Aims:

- To help create a positive learning environment for the benefit of all
- To encourage the pupils to become self-disciplined
- To encourage mutual respect between pupils, staff, parents and school management, and any visitors to our school
- To encourage pupils to respect themselves and the rights of others
- To instil in pupils a pride in their school and to respect school property
- To ensure that the system of rules, rewards and sanctions are respected and implemented in a fair and consistent manner throughout the school.
- To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the school community

Content/Guidelines:

This policy is designed to give clear guidelines of expected behaviour for all members of our school community. The following are the expectations that are envisaged:

The Board of Management can expect:

- That staff will act in a professional manner at all times
- That staff will always act in the best interests of the pupils
- That staff will keep them informed if concerns or difficulties arise
- That staff will maintain a high standard of behaviour and ensure that our Positive Behaviour Policy is implemented
- That parents support the school and the Board of Management in the decisions that are made in the best interests of the pupils
- That parents will uphold and promote the schools "Positive Behaviour Policy"
- That staff and parents will promote and take pride in our school's excellent reputation at all times
- That all members of the school community will treat the Board of Management with respect and courtesy
- That parents will sign to indicate their acceptance of the school's Positive Behaviour Policy as outlined in the Education Welfare Act (2000)
- That children will adhere to and co-operate with the school's Positive Behaviour Policy

The school community can expect that the BOM will:

- Assume the overall responsibility for Positive Behaviour in the school
- Treat all members of the school community with respect and courtesy

- Ensure that the schools Positive Behaviour Policy is implemented in full
- Deal with serious incidents of misbehaviour or matters which cannot be resolved informally within the school
- Support the principal and staff in decisions that are made in the best interests of the child
- Adhere to the Parent Complaints Procedure and the Staff Grievance Procedure as outlined in the Board of Management Handbook
- Comply with all legislation and guidelines relevant to school

Parents can expect that staff will:

- Encourage and reward positive behaviour
- Treat them and their children with respect and courtesy
- Act in a professional manner at all times
- Treat their children fairly and equally at all times
- Meet them to discuss their children annually at parent teacher meetings and at other times if necessary by prior appointment
- Keep them informed if concerns or difficulties arise
- Provide a safe and secure learning environment for their children & make any necessary decisions in accordance with our duty of care
- Promote and take pride in our school's excellent reputation at all times

Staff can expect that parents will:

- Treat them with respect and courtesy
- Support the school in the decisions that are made in the best interests of the pupils
- Keep them informed if concerns or difficulties arise in relation to their child

- Make a prior appointment to meet the teacher/principal to discuss any issues in relation to their child
- Uphold and promote the schools "Positive Behaviour Policy"
- Ensure that their child arrives on time with all the necessary requisites for the school day
- Ensure that their child attends school regularly and provide a written explanation in the event that their child is absent for all or part of a school day in accordance with the Education Welfare Act (2000)
- Provide a suitable environment for children to complete homework exercises
- Promote and take pride in our school's excellent reputation at all times
- Foster respect for school staff and avoid negative discussion of staff in the presence of children

Staff can expect that children will contribute to creating a happy school environment by:

- Treating them with respect and courtesy
- Accepting and co-operating with decisions that are made in their best interests
- Respecting the rights of others to a safe and secure learning environment
- Ensuring that their behaviour does not infringe upon the rights of other pupils to an education
- Working to the best of their ability and ensuring that they have all books and necessary materials
- Adhering to the school's "Positive Behaviour Policy"
- Promoting and taking pride in our school's excellent reputation at all times, both in and outside school

Children can expect :

- To feel safe, secure and happy in school
- To be treated with respect and courtesy
- To receive a broad and balanced education in a positive environment conducive to learning
- To be listened to and have their voices heard
- To be encouraged to achieve their best and to reach their full potential
- To arrive at school punctually with all the necessary books and materials
- To be enabled to complete homework in a supportive environment
- To be affirmed and acknowledged for their efforts

Strategies for Managing Behaviour:

- Children will have an input in devising classroom rules
- Expected behaviour will be communicated to pupils on a regular basis both within class and at whole school assemblies
- Reward systems are in place both in the classroom and in the school for affirmation of positive behaviour
- An Anti-Bullying Policy is implemented in the school
- Parents and children are provided with a copy of the school's Positive Behaviour Policy which is read and signed to indicate acceptance
- Effective classroom management strategies and school routines are in place to ensure clarity for all
- A Friendship Squad work in the school yard each day to facilitate positive behaviour on the yard
- Children are involved and are encouraged to take responsibility for promoting positive behaviour throughout the school
- Adequate supervision is provided by staff at all times to promote positive behaviour throughout the school
- Staff model positive behaviour through their interaction with children and each other

- Clear guidelines and sanctions are in place in the event of misbehaviour

Expected Behaviours:

In School:

- Children will walk in a mannerly fashion and line up in single file to exit classroom or hall (running within the school building is not permitted)
- Children will be gentle in their interactions with each other (rough and dangerous play eg. kicking, pushing, fighting, punching, biting, throwing objects, spitting, pulling hair, pinching etc. are not permitted)
- Children will speak in a respectful manner in their interactions with others (bad language, shouting, screaming, rude gestures, nasty personal comments are not permitted)
- Children will contribute to creating a classroom environment conducive to learning (disruptive behaviour eg. talking out of turn, shouting out, throwing objects, not listening, cheeky comments, argumentative behaviour, hindering other children, interrupting teacher and others are not permitted)
- Children will always strive to work to the best of their ability, follow the direction and guidance of the teacher and complete given tasks including homework assignments
- Children will always show respect to their own property, school property and the property of others (graffiti, vandalism, stealing of property are not permitted)
- Children will respect the school environment and uphold the Green School code and be vigilant in the conservation of energy and water in the school (littering, damaging school property, defacing the building and school grounds are not permitted)

- In emergencies children have access to the school telephone (the use of mobile phones by pupils is not permitted)
- Children will abide by our Substance Use Policy (cigarettes, alcohol, solvents, illegal drugs are not permitted)

In School Yard:

- Children will walk in a mannerly fashion and line up quietly in single file in their designated area to enter the school building (rough and dangerous behaviour is not permitted)
- Children will abide by the direction of the supervising staff on the yard, and must request permission to re-enter the school building to go to the toilet or for any other reason
- Children will stay in the school yard within their designated areas at all times (under no circumstances are children permitted to leave the school yard)
- Children will respect the rights of all children in the playground (no child will be allowed to dominate any area of play or play equipment)
- Children will respect the Friendship Squad and their equipment and follow their direction
- Children will play safely in a respectful manner (contact games which are rough in nature are not permitted)
- Children will be gentle in their interactions with each other (rough and dangerous play eg. kicking, pushing, fighting, punching, biting, throwing objects, spitting, pulling hair, pinching etc. are not permitted)
- Children will speak in a respectful manner in their interactions with others (bad language, rude gestures, shouting, screaming, nasty personal comments are not permitted)
- Children will respect the school environment and uphold the Green School code and be vigilant in the conservation of

energy and water in the school (littering, damaging school property, defacing the building and school grounds are not permitted)

- Children have access to school equipment on the yard (they are not permitted to bring their own play equipment to school eg. footballs, basketballs, skipping ropes etc.)

Outside School Activities:

- Children will abide by the direction of the accompanying staff members, instructors or sports coaches that they may encounter
- Children will behave as ambassadors for the school and represent it in the best possible light
- Children will be respectful and mannerly towards all people they encounter eg. bus drivers, coaches, tour guides, instructors, members of the public etc.
- Children will respect the property of others while away from school
- Children will speak in a respectful manner in their interactions with others (bad language, rude gestures, shouting, screaming, nasty personal comments are not permitted)
- Children will promote and take pride in our school's excellent reputation at all times
- All children representing the school on sports teams will sign and abide by the our school's Sports Code of Behaviour (See Appendix A)
- Children will abide by our Substance Use Policy (cigarettes, alcohol, solvents, illegal drugs are not permitted)

Expected Uniform and Presentation:

In Ransboro NS we take pride in our excellent school reputation which is underpinned by the sense of personal self-worth which is encouraged and valued in each child. Our school crest and school uniform are reflective of that pride and are also the public manifestation of it. To this end the following are the school's expectations with regard to uniform and presentation:

- School uniform consists of the official school tracksuit, white polo shirt, navy trousers/skirt/pinafore, navy or white socks/tights, white/dark runners or dark shoes (fluorescent/brightly coloured runners/shoes, boots, crocs, open-toe sandals, high-heeled shoes, pumps are not permitted)
- All items of clothing, uniform and belongings must be clearly labelled with child's name
- For health, safety and hygiene reasons, hair must be tied back away from the face at all times
- For health, safety and hygiene reasons only one pair of stud earrings may be worn in the ear lobe (any other body piercing are not permitted)
- Watches may be worn, however all other items of jewellery are not permitted (eg. necklaces, bracelets, rings etc.)
- Make-up, false nails, tattoos and nail varnish are not permitted

Rewards:

Reward systems are in place both in the classroom and in the school for affirmation of positive behaviour to include:

- Classroom rewards such as stickers, stars, stamps, point systems, homework vouchers, golden time, stars of the week, prizes etc.
- Pupil of the Week awards

- Yard point systems
- Birthday rewards
- Certificates
- Acknowledgements at school assemblies

Sanctions:

The vast majority of pupils are happy to comply with the school's Positive Behaviour Policy and recognise what misbehaviour is and have quite strong views on how it should be dealt with. However, sanctions are in place both in the classroom and in the school to deal with incidents of misbehaviour to include:

- The pupil being made aware that their behaviour is unacceptable and contrary to the Positive Behaviour Policy (verbal reprimand)
- The teacher may discuss the misbehaviour with the pupil, (immediately or later), always explaining that it is the behaviour that is rejected and not the child (reasoning with the pupil)
- The child may be temporarily separated from their peers (removal from the group)
- The child may be assigned extra work/homework at the discretion of the principal/teacher
- The child may be requested by a teacher/principal to write an account of his/her offending behaviour to be signed by parents (See Appendix B and C)
- The child may be requested by the principal to write a letter of apology to the offended party to be signed by parents
- Where the child does not comply with the policy on uniform and presentation, a teacher/principal will inform parents by means of a note (See Appendix D). These notes will be kept

on file and in the case of repeated breaches, parents will be asked to discuss the matter with the teacher/principal

- Where the child does not comply with the Substance Use Policy or is found under the influence of a prohibited substance, appropriate sanctions will be applied in consultation with BOM
- Privileges may be withdrawn from the child (eg. temporary withdrawal from playtime/activities/extra-curricular activities etc.)
- The child may be withdrawn from a particular lesson or peer group
- Contact may be made with parents informally through a note in the homework journal (to be signed by parents)
- Discussion between the class teacher and parents
- Referral to the school principal (this may be informal or formal)
- Formal contact may be made with parents through a phone call/letter from the teacher/principal
- Formal referral to the BOM
- Suspension (NEWB Guidelines to be followed, See Appendix E)
- Expulsion (NEWB Guidelines to be followed, See Appendix F)

Success Criteria:

Ongoing monitoring of behaviour in school. Feedback from pupils, parents and school staff.

Implementation, Ratification and Communication:

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management

Signed: **Mr. Dan Scannell** (Chairperson)

This policy is being sent to all parents to sign presently, and will be given to all new parents to sign on the enrolment of their child.

APPENDIX A

Ransboro N.S. Sports Code of Behaviour

In Ransboro NS we enjoy and take pride in an excellent reputation both on and off the sports field. The following are things that I will keep in mind when representing my school:

How I treat Myself

- If I play below my best but try my best, I should not blame myself for a defeat. A defeat, the same as a victory, is brought about by a team.

How I treat players from opposing teams

- I should shake hands before & after the match
- I should treat our opponents with respect
- I should wish them well whether they win or lose.
- I should never deliberately hit an opponent.
- I should never lose my temper.

How I treat our own team coaches

- I should respect our own team coaches.
- If I'm not picked to play in a match, I shouldn't complain.
- I should never use bad language.
- I should never be cheeky or back answer our own team coaches.
- If our own team coach is giving a pep talk or advising us, I should not interrupt.

How I treat supporters & coaches of other teams

- I should respect adults supporting and coaching other teams.
- I should not use bad language.
- I should never give cheek to them.
- I should wish them well if I meet them after a game.

How I treat fellow players

- I should respect our fellow players and treat them as part of a team.
- The team includes the players and the substitutes – the full panel.

- I should show loyalty to everyone on our team.
- I should encourage my teammates and support them, even when they make mistakes.
- I should remember my teammates are always trying their best.
- We should play as a team, not as a group of individuals.

How I treat referees

- I should respect the referee as he/she is in charge of the match.
- I should never give cheek or use bad language to the referee.
- I should remember that I can never change a referee's decision no matter what I say or do. A referee's decision is always final.
- If the referee's decision seems unfair, I should not give out, sulk, blame other people; instead I should get on with the game.
- I should shake hands with the referee and thank her /him after the game.

When participating in sport organised by Ransboro N.S., I agree to follow the above Code of Conduct. If I do not follow this code, I understand that I will be withdrawn from the team for a period of time at the discretion of the coach/teacher/principal.

Player's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

APPENDIX D

RANSBORO NATIONAL SCHOOL
UNIFORM/PRESENTATION REMINDER

Dear parent,

It has come to our attention that your child _____ has failed to comply with the school's Policy on Uniform and Presentation today in the following way:

- Incorrect uniform _____
- Hair not tied back properly from face _____
- Wearing make-up / nail varnish _____
- Incorrect footwear _____
- Wearing jewellery _____

Signed,

_____ (Teacher)

_____ (Principal)