

St. Malachy's Primary School

Discipline Policy

Reviewed by all staff

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015



~ Mission Statement ~

***We at St Malachy's Primary School endeavour to promote a welcoming community based on trust and mutual respect, where all individuals feel that they are all valued and belong.***

***We develop our spirituality through prayer, reflection and celebration whilst living out our faith.***

***As a community of learners, we strive for excellence, unlocking the full potential of each individual, developing confident and independent learners.***

***As we journey together with Christ, we seek to engender the joy and wonder of learning through celebrating God's love in our lives. We invoke the intercession of St. Malachy as we journey together in faith and we hope that all may say "Truly God is in this place."***

## **Aims of our Discipline Policy**

To fulfil our Mission Statement the aims of our Discipline Policy will be:

1. To provide a suitable environment for the entire educational process
2. To promote good relationships throughout the school
3. To foster and nurture the gifts of our staff and pupils
4. To welcome all new pupils and staff allowing them to feel valued members of the school community
5. To encourage loyalty to and respect for school, family and community
6. To promote pupil's self-image and self-esteem
7. To foster by example attitudes of respect, tolerance and honesty
8. To promote the rights of the individual
9. To promote self-discipline and a positive attitude towards authority
10. To develop in the pupils a sense of responsibility towards society and the preservation of the environment.

## Discipline in Our School

The Discipline Policy in St. Malachy's Primary School is intended to ensure that the pupils' learning environment is as free from disruption as possible. It is based on a sense of community within the school and values which all of its members share. All parties involved in the school community exercise, commitment to the school in terms of positive behaviour or good discipline.

The staff endeavours to have high expectations of their pupils, have appropriate differentiation and provide a challenging, broad curriculum.

Various programmes and initiatives promote a sense of self-esteem and self-respect, respect for others and allow pupils to show pride in their school, parish and community. The 'family ethos' is very much promoted which fosters a sense of togetherness and cohesiveness among all school members.

All members of our school staff have an enormous role to play, in the formation and implementation of our school discipline policy.

*"Good behaviour keeps pupils safe, reduces stress for teachers and contributes to a welcoming and caring environment in which pupils can develop as people and both pupils and teachers can do their best work"*  
(Promoting Positive Behaviour 2001 - DENI)

## Outline of School Rules

We will try to:-

- (a) arrive at school punctually
- (b) not leave school without permission from teacher or principal
- (c) walk on the left in the school corridors and walk in the canteen and grounds at all times
- (d) show respect and kindness at all times to all pupils, all members of staff and visitors to the school
- (e) show respect and care towards school property and take responsibility for our own belongings
- (f) keep school litter-free
- (g) refrain from using obscene or foul language

## Dining Hall Rules

- line up carefully and quietly to receive dinner
- speak clearly at all times
- show appreciation to the kitchen staff
- keep dining hall area clean and tidy

## Yard Rules

- ball games - ball should never be above waist high
- do not move out of yard unless given permission
- avoid pushing and pulling other children
- walk to lines when bell sounds

## Rewards for Good Behaviour

- praise by teacher
- marking in books
- display of work
- assembly praise
- merit awards
- lining up awards
- circle time
- school prize-giving / assemblies
- certificates from principal
- incidental prizes issued
- pupils allocated responsibility
- acknowledgements in child's homework book

## Outline of Consequences of Undesired Behaviour

At our school we classify unacceptable behaviour into 3 broad bands.

- Level 1 Misbehaviour that can be effectively managed within the classroom environment by the teacher.
- Level 2 More serious or persistence of Level 1 is not so easily managed within a classroom environment. Class teacher may involve the parents, either formally or informally. Notification of other staff may take place. Referral to higher management level may also take place. Detention discussion with parents re-issues depriving child of certain privileges may be used as sanctions.
- Level 3 Very serious misbehaviour or persistence of Level 2. Formal involvement of Senior Management within the school, as well as parents. Additionally, the involvement of outside agencies may be sought, including, CCMS and Education Authority, Southern Region.

Sanctions:

1. deprivation of privileges for individuals concerned
2. detention to 4:15 p.m. KS2 on Monday. Parents will be notified in writing the week previous stating the nature of the misdemeanour
3. after three periods of detention in one year, suspension
4. **It should be noted that in extreme cases the Principal can move straight to suspension without going through stages 1-3.**

## **Suspension**

1. The legal responsibility for producing schemes for suspension lies with the CCMS. For any suspension to occur the principal must notify the local Diocesan Administrator of CCMS and the Chairman of the Board of Governors.
2. However it must be noted that suspension is a very strong measure and has rarely been used in St. Malachy's Primary School, due to the very well disciplined pupils, strong school ethos and excellent school culture.

## **Discipline Policy and Parental Links**

The support and co-operation of parents is a very important element in achieving our aims in our positive discipline policy. Parents need to be aware of their share of responsibility towards meeting these aims.

Opportunities to build parental involvement are promoted through our rewards system e.g. written communications (reports, letters, newsletters, books etc.), by their child achieving certificates or prizes at presentation evenings, trips, face to face meetings at formal Parents' evenings and arranged interviews.

Feedback and meetings will help us to determine any parental concerns which may arise throughout the school year.

## **Policy Review**

The discipline policy will take account of current needs and be reflected in current practice. Its effectiveness and application will be considered by the staff or a designated group of staff on an annual basis. The Board of Governors will be kept up-to-date with the views of staff.

Reviewing our policy may involve parents, teachers, as well as pupils. Pupils' views will be sought through Circle Time and/or questionnaires. The findings will help us to amend our policy, as appropriate, to meet the needs of all the children within the school.