

COOLE NATIONAL SCHOOL

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Coole N.S. Code of Conduct

Aims of Primary Education

The aims of Primary Education may be stated briefly as follows:

- To enable children to live full lives as children
- To equip them to avail of further education
- To prepare them to live full and useful lives as adults in society.

As a staff committed to the realisation of these goals, our aim is to create a happy, secure working environment for our pupils, in which there is a sense of good order and a reasonable approach to discipline. This is done by having guidelines to direct behaviour for the good of all.

These guidelines constitute the school's CODE OF CONDUCT.

Aims of a Code of Conduct

The aims of a code of conduct are:

- To help create a positive learning environment in which every pupil can benefit from school.
- To help pupils to become more self-disciplined and to encourage good standards of behaviour.
- To help organise a large group so that school can operate smoothly for the benefit of all.
- To care in a practical way for pupils, staff, the school and its environment.

General Guidelines for Behaviour

- All pupils are expected to behave in a responsible manner both to

themselves and to others showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other pupils and adults at all times.

- Respect must be shown to the person of the individual at all times.
- Respect must be shown for the property of the individual and of the school at all times.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct covers the following areas:

- Behaviour in class
- Behaviour in the playground
- Behaviour in the school environment
- Behaviour on school trips/outings
- Attendance at school
- Homework

1. Behaviour in Class

- Pupils are expected to respect the right of other pupils to learn and to avoid disrupting the work of the classroom.
- Pupils are expected to have respect for their teachers and follow instructions given by them.
 - Pupils are expected to go to and from their classroom in an orderly manner. Running is not allowed at any time in classrooms or corridor.
- Pupils are expected to show courtesy and respect towards other pupils.

2. Behaviour on the Yard/Playground/Pitch

- Pupils are expected to have respect for the person and property of others.
- Pupils are expected to avoid rough play. Rough play may be seen as a fun activity by some but the risk of injury on the playground is higher when play is rough. Teachers regularly remind children in their classes that rough play is not allowed on the school yard at any time.

A '3 Strikes' system is in place where play is observed by the supervising teacher to have been rough and causing potential for

injury. After 3 strikes (three warnings), a note will be sent to parents about the child's behaviour on the yard and the child will spend Golden Time (20 minutes on Friday afternoon) in detention as a punishment.

- Bullying of any kind; verbal, physical or otherwise is unacceptable and will be dealt with following the guidelines of our Anti-Bullying policy.
- Pupils are expected to obey signals (school bell) at the end of break.
- Pupils are only permitted to re-enter the school premises during break with the teacher's permission.
- Pupils are forbidden to climb on walls or trees.
- Bad language will not be tolerated in the playground.
- Pupils must remain in their own designated areas.

Any behaviour that is in breach of this code of conduct will result in sanctions. Most minor misdemeanours are dealt with by the pupil being withdrawn from the yard and asked to stand at the school wall for a number of minutes. (The number of minutes punishment will coincide with the child's age. e.g. 10 year old pupil has Time-Out for ten minutes).

Further sanctions for more serious breach of the code of conduct are outlined below.

Pupils with special educational needs (SEN)

Pupils with SEN will be shown leniency and understanding by teachers with regard to this code of conduct. Misbehaviours will be dealt with according to the arrangements made with parents at the drawing up of the child's Individual Education Plan.

3: Behaviour in the School Environment

- Pupils are expected to move about the school in an orderly manner.
- Pupils shall not remain on the school premises after school activities are finished.
- Pupils are expected to show respect for school property.
- Pupils should not be in the school hall or corridors without permission from their teacher.
- Pupils are expected to come to and from school with due care for other pupils, for property, for traffic and pedestrians.

4: Behaviour on School Tours and Outings

School tours and outings present particular challenges for the school. As well as the normal standard of behaviour expected from all our pupils, the following should be noted:

- Pupils must wear their uniform on all school tours and outings unless otherwise stated by their teacher.
- The Code of Conduct that applies to the school day, also applies to school trips.
- Pupils must obey the instructions of teachers, drivers, tour guides, or any person designated to be in charge of them during the course of the outing.

5: Attendance at School

- Pupils are required to be regular in their attendance at school.
- After a pupil has been absent, a note/email from the parent/guardian must always be brought to the teacher on the pupils return to school.
- Pupils are expected to be on time for school each day and, in the event of a late arrival, bring a note to the teacher.
- Pupils are not permitted to leave the school premises for any reason, unless collected by parents or guardians.

6: Homework

- Homework consolidates work already done in school.
- It is given on a regular basis and pupils are expected to complete it neatly.
- Parents / guardians are requested to ensure that homework, written and oral is completed. It will be necessary therefore for parents to spot check as often as possible.
- If for some reason homework cannot be completed then a signed note

stating this should be sent to the class teacher.

- Refer to the school Homework Policy for further information.

Maintaining Good Behaviour

- Encouraging high standards of behaviour among pupils, and creating and maintaining an orderly atmosphere for learning in the school will involve the use of praise and rewards for good behaviour. This will result in sound relationships between teachers and pupils, leading to effective teaching and learning.
- Teachers may have their own reward system set up in class to reward good behaviour and work e.g. Star charts, treats, prizes etc. This is up to each individual teacher and may be subject to change.
- Maintaining standards of behaviour will also involve, in some instances, the application of sanctions to register disapproval of unacceptable behaviour. When sanctions are invoked, pupils should understand that what they have done is unacceptable and it is the misbehaviour that is rejected.

Sanctions

The procedure and sanctions outlined here are what occurs where there are persistent minor misbehaviour or a serious misbehaviour by pupils. The particular stage used will depend on the seriousness of the misbehaviour and whether or not it is a first/second/ third etc offence.

- Reasoning with the pupil.
- Use of class teachers own reward system e.g. loss of a star, deduction of golden time.
- Reprimand (including advice on how to improve).
- Temporary separation from peers, friends or others in class or at break time.
- Referral to the principal teacher.
- Communication with parents / guardians.
- Attendance for part of the school day.
- Temporary suspension.
- Expulsion.

Parents

- Communication with parents / guardians through letters, phone calls or meetings will occur at all stages where necessary so that parents / guardians are involved at an early stage rather than as a last resort.
- Cooperation from parents will be an essential part of the process.
- Parents are asked to contact the school secretary to make an appointment with any teacher with whom they wish to speak.
- Parents are reminded that a Code of Conduct is necessary for the safety and protection of **all children** to ensure that pupils in the class and school have the right to an education in a safe environment.

Other items

- The school rules must be followed at all times.
- Pupils are expected to wear their school uniform with a dark-coloured shoe. See the school Uniform Policy for further information
- Coats and other property should be labelled.
- Tracksuits and dark-coloured runners are essential for physical education.
- Jewellery other than watches and stud earrings are not allowed in school.

This policy will be reviewed as and when necessary.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management:

Chairperson: _____ Date: _____

Signed on behalf of the Parents' Association

_____ Date: _____

Principal's Signature

_____ Date: _____