



HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

A HAPPY & SAFE PLACE TO LEARN

SCHOOL RULES

Our school rules are based on two Principles: Respect and Responsibility

The school rules outline the standards of behaviour expected in our school. The provisions of the code apply to all school activities inside and outside of school time and the school grounds. The rules are a reflection of the values outlined in 'The Holy Cross Way'.

1. Always show respect for, and be mannerly to staff, visitors and fellow pupils.
2. Be diligent and neat in both classwork and homework. If all of your homework is not done give a note to your teacher to explain why.
3. Be punctual. If you arrive late to school, have to leave school early, or are absent from school for whatever reason give a note to your teacher to explain why.
4. Always show respect for your school, classroom and school equipment. Do not litter and do not damage items belonging to you or to others.
5. Wear the school uniform or school tracksuit on the appropriate days. If you are not wearing your uniform give a note to your teacher to explain why.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

This code has been drawn up after a process which involved consultation with teachers, parents and the board of management. The support and co-operation of all of the partners in education in our school are essential if the code is to be effective.

In devising the code, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of our school. The aim is to develop self-esteem and self-discipline in each child by encouraging and rewarding good behaviour. It recognises the right of each and every child to an education in a relatively disruption-free environment. The teachers place greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions in the belief that this will produce the best results for our children. Central to the code is the communication between school and home. Due consideration is given to children with special needs. The following reward and correction systems outline our plan for implementing the code.

The method for implementing the school rules is twofold. It is comprised of a **Reward System** and a **Correction System**. This system promotes good behaviour.

THE REWARD SYSTEM

Each child from 1st to 6th Classes has a Cárta Réalta in their Homework Journal with thirty six squares.

These squares are arranged in three sections, representing the three terms of the school year. A child fills their Cárta Réalta by being awarded Réaltaí (stars) from a teacher or the principal for achievement in the areas of school work, respect, kindness to others etc.

It would obviously be unfair to expect all children to be at the same levels in all areas of school life. Therefore the class teacher or Principal shall judge at what level each child is doing his/her best so as to be awarded a réalta.

When a child reaches 12 Réalta (s)he will be awarded a Bronze medal. When a child reaches 24 Réalta (s)he will be awarded a Silver medal. When a child reaches 36 Réalta (s)he will be awarded a Gold medal. Medals are awarded by the Principal at Tionól na Scoile (School Assembly). These are presented in such a way as to add to the children's self-esteem and self-confidence. It affords the children an opportunity to take their medal home and share their success with family and friends.

THE CORRECTION SYSTEM

This system outlines the ways in which the school responds to unacceptable behaviour.

This aspect of the system relies heavily on the understanding and co-operation of parents and teachers and is designed to establish good home/school communication.

It is based on a three card system to inform parents of misbehaviour, lack of effort in schoolwork, disobedience, disrespect for others, disrespect for property etc.

The cards are:

WHITE CARD: For petty offences.

YELLOW CARD: For minor offences or after three white cards.

RED CARD: For a very serious offence or following nine white and/or three yellow cards.

Cards are given according to the nature of the misbehaviour and depending on the kind of card given for the last incident of misbehaviour. The teachers will keep a record of cards given to children.

Cards are sent home to be signed by parents and returned immediately to the teacher. In this way parents will be involved at an early stage of behaviour management rather than as a last resort.

On receipt of a yellow card, parents will be invited to the school to meet the class teacher. The child's behaviour will be discussed and parents and teacher will plan together to improve the behaviour. If the parents and teacher feel it would be helpful a "Daily Assessment Sheet" can be filled each day for the following week, or for longer if necessary. Progress will be discussed with parents at the next scheduled meeting. These meetings will continue for as long as is necessary.

Alternatively, for gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour leading to a cárta dearg, suspension will be seriously considered. Where suspension is deemed necessary, a pupil may be suspended for up to three school days on the first occasion and up to ten school days thereafter. Parents of the pupil will be consulted on and informed of any decision to suspend a pupil. The principal has the expressed permission of the board to immediately suspend a child for gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour for up to three days. The Education Welfare Officer will be informed.

Expulsion of a pupil will be considered if the pupil's presence in the school is a persistent cause of significant disruption to the learning of others or to the teaching process; or poses significant threat to their own safety or the safety of others; or the pupil is responsible for serious damage to property. Expulsion will only take place as a last measure when all other measures have been exhausted and subsequent to a Board of Management decision. The procedure for expulsion will follow the guidelines as laid out by the National Education Welfare Board in their document "Developing a Code of behaviour: A guideline for Schools."

This code will be reviewed every three years.

The children in the infant classes will follow the same school rules as are laid out in our code of conduct. However, to enable the children to grow in their awareness and ability of appropriate behaviour we outline the rewards and sanctions below. They are different from the rewards and sanctions for the more senior classes due to younger children’s ability levels and our expectation of acceptable behaviour from a younger child.

To reinforce good behaviour the following steps are followed:

Step 1 Praise

Step 2 Note home/verbal contact informing parents of the good behaviour

Step 3 Class teacher will give the child a reward/treat

The class teacher will use their discretion as to whether a child’s behaviour warrants the appropriate reward/treat.

In order to minimise unacceptable behaviour and to help children come to an understanding of what constitutes good and bad behaviour the following sanctions are followed:

Verbal Warning

In-class sanction

Visit to the Principal’s office

Meeting of teacher(s), parent(s) and any other adults involved to discuss and draw up a behaviour plan. If a child’s behaviour is so disruptive as to prove an on-going disruption to the teaching and/or learning and/or safety of others in the class, the teacher will discuss this with the parents and alternative arrangements may be considered such as a shorter school day/referral for assessment/ etc.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(Chairperson of Board of Management)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(Principal)

Date of next review: 2025