

Positive Behaviour Policy

Our Lady's Girls' Primary School

September 2023



MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that each child is an individual with individual talents, abilities and needs. Our goal is to ensure that each pupil acquires the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for responsible citizenship and develops the qualities of perseverance and resilience for the challenge of tomorrow's world.

In Our Lady's Primary School, it is our view that positive behaviour is the key to effective learning and helps to increase in children an awareness of and responsibility for, the choices they make. Positive behaviour promotes in children caring, responsible attitudes and therefore values for life.

In Our Lady's Primary, the highest standards of behaviour are expected from all our pupils. Good behaviour is imperative to the function of learning and teaching.

We believe that if children are encouraged to become autonomous learners then there is more likelihood of good behaviour prevailing. Promoting the autonomous learner goes hand in hand with self-discipline and self-esteem.

We believe that the 'creation and maintenance of an orderly working environment is a basic pre-requisite to effective teaching and learning.'

DENI SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 1998

We believe that:

- we should provide an environment which is stimulating and welcoming to all
- a whole school approach to this policy is agreed by all staff, parents, pupils and governors
- an orderly working environment can most effectively be achieved by promoting good behaviour
- each teacher determines the ethos of their classroom in accordance with the school Mission Statement and within the classroom there is mutual respect for all pupils and staff
- that effective learning can take place by agreeing with the children values which are the basis of positive behaviour in our school
- procedures for dealing with breaches of discipline must be clearly understood and agreed by all concerned, and consistently and fairly applied

- it is the responsibility of the whole staff to ensure that school rules are adhered to – ensuring that the pupils and staff will have high expectations and high self-esteem
- we cater for children with learning difficulties or behavioural problems and those who are exceptionally gifted pupils. They should be identified early and their needs addressed through the relevant policy e.g. SEN, Pastoral Care etc.
- effective links with external support agencies should be maintained

Positive Behaviour involves ensuring that all children are familiar with the discipline procedures throughout the school. Discipline should not be seen as punishment but as training children to behave in a socially acceptable manner. Sanctions may well be part of this training, but generally discipline should aim to be positive. Teachers must be able to continue their duties free from interference from disruptive pupils. They are entitled to full support from their principal, colleagues, parents and governors. Likewise, pupils have the right to have their education free from the interference of disruptive pupils.

CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE

REWARDS

Rewards are a form of positive reinforcement in use in Our Lady's Primary. Praise can be given in many ways and may include:

- an encouraging smile
- verbal praise or round of applause
- written comment on work
- visit to another class or teacher to show work
- sit at the teacher's desk or choose a new seat for the day
- visit to principal's office
- public word of praise
- presentation of certificate or prize
- girl of the week award
- choose story at story time
- first choice in activities
- no homework
- text home to parents/guardians
- individual/group/table rewards
- extra playtime
- class reward chart

SANCTIONS

Even in good classroom practice it is necessary to have sanctions so as to make the particular child and others aware that certain behaviour is unacceptable. Sanctions are also in place to protect the safety of all members of the school community and the authority of the teacher, should that be threatened.

In Our Lady's Primary, sanctions may include:

- a look of disapproval
- immediate verbal checking of misbehaviour
- a minor penalty relative to the offence
- repeated or extra work
- loss of golden time
- referral to another teacher
- time out - removal to another classroom
- loss of freedom – break or lunch (the child will be given adequate time for their meal)
- loss of privileges – attendance at organised outings or other school activities
- referral to the principal
- parental request to collect pupil from or deliver pupil to school following persistent misbehaviour on journey to/from school
- parental consultation – with the possibility of being placed on report
- the drawing up of a behaviour plan
- suspension or expulsion for continued or severe or gross indiscipline

SCHOOL RULES

Our school rules reflect the fundamental values of the dignity and worth of each individual in the school community. We promote an environment that is safe and welcoming and therefore have some rules for all to follow:

- Children should arrive at school punctually and leave the school premises promptly and remain on the school premises unless granted permission to leave

Teacher supervision begins at 8.45am and ends when the last child has left the playground. Our school cannot accept responsibility for any children on the premises outside of these hours, except in exceptional circumstances previously agreed with the principal.

- Children are expected to arrive in school properly equipped for the day's lessons
 1. necessary text and exercise books
 2. relevant stationary
 3. completed homework
 4. swimming gear

Children are expected to wear their school uniform every day. Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled with names.

- Footwear should be of a safe design
- Children are expected to show respect for others at all times
- Children are expected to show respect for school property at all times
- Children must move safely around the school – no running
- Children must promptly obey instructions from teachers and supervisors
- Children should remember their manners at all times
- **Bullying will be regarded as severe indiscipline and will not be tolerated**

The staff in Our Lady's Primary will work in partnership with parents.

MINOR INCIDENT

A minor incident is one which interferes with classroom teaching or causes minor disruption in the playground:

- Interruption when teacher is speaking
- Not listening in class
- Showing indifference to work
- Distracting other pupils

DEALING WITH A MINOR INCIDENT

We as teachers know that a quiet, firm reprimand can be very effective and all that is necessary to deal with a minor incident. Pupils should be given an opportunity to reflect on their behaviour and its effect. Minor incidents are dealt with by the class teacher. See list of sanctions on page 6.

NOTE-WORTHY INCIDENT

A note-worthy incident is one where there is more serious or continuous disruption in the classroom or unruly behaviour in the playground:

- Persistent offenders from above
- Being insolent to the teacher
- Displaying defiance and sullenness
- Challenging authority
- Horseplay with peers

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE – NOTE-WORTHY INCIDENT

The incident should be recorded on CPOMS and brought to the attention of a member of the SLT. If necessary, parents will be informed at this stage. Other sanctions may be administered depending on the misdemeanour. See list of sanctions on page 5.

SERIOUS INDISCIPLINE

A serious indiscipline is a gross misbehaviour or misconduct, violence or destruction of property.

- Persistent offenders from above
- Outright refusal to obey staff
- Truancy
- Bullying
- Assaulting other pupils
- Vandalism to school and other's property
- Theft

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE – SERIOUS INCIDENT

The incident should be recorded on CPOMS and brought to the attention of the vice-principal/ principal immediately. **Parents are informed at this stage.** See list of sanctions on page 6.

PLEASE NOTE: During non-classroom time, supervisors must report any incidents to the class teacher who will then follow the above procedure.

PROLONGED GOOD BEHAVIOUR FOLLOWING AN INCIDENT OF INDISCIPLINE

If a child shows remorse and desists from indiscipline for a determined period of time, they will no longer be monitored and they begin with a 'clean slate'.

LINKS WITH OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES

Our Lady's Positive Behaviour Policy is one of a number of initiatives undertaken by the staff of the school, to ensure that each pupil is secure and happy and is able to function at their optimum level, both physically and academically. Other policies which impact on this one are as follows:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Pastoral Care Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Special Needs Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- E-safety Policy
- PDMU Policy

It is the aim of our school that the implementation of the above policies and the attitudes they engender, will help to develop a more child centred school where the needs and concerns of the pupils are paramount and the school can function free from serious disruption and indiscipline.

We aim to develop a culture where all pupils know what is acceptable behaviour and what is not.

REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

This Policy is to be reviewed annually.