



Coláiste Pobail Fóla

Code of Behaviour 2020

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Teaching and Learning can proceed effectively at all times so that all students can achieve their full potential.

This policy envisages that all stakeholders are treated with dignity such that they have a personal sense of worth, value, respect or esteem that is derived from their humanity as well as being treated respectfully by others at all times.

We have the highest expectation of student behaviour to ensure that all students make outstanding progress and achieve their full potential.

We recognise the voice of every child and every member of our school community and we will endeavour to establish good working relationships and encourage mutual respect among all members of the school community.

Responsibility

1. We expect all of our learners to have excellent attendance, where possible.
2. We expect our students to be punctual and to be prepared for each school day. This means students should be present in the correct school uniform with the equipment necessary for the school day, including a Journal, and homework completed to the best of their ability. They must come to school with a fully charged iPad, under current Covid restrictions chargers cannot be loaned to students.
3. Students are expected to be honest, respectful and helpful to each other and to all members of the school community.
4. Every student should respect the property of their fellow students, the teachers and of the College.

5. Abusive or disrespectful language has no place in the College.
6. Smoking is forbidden at all times inside the building, within the school grounds, in the immediate vicinity of the school or on school trips. This includes e-cigarettes and vaping.
7. Being under the influence of, using or possessing illegal substances (including alcohol) is forbidden at all times inside the building, within the school grounds, in the immediate vicinity of the school or on school trips.
8. Students should not bring any item to school which could be dangerous or disruptive.
9. Face Masks must be worn in the School Building

Mobile Phones

It is accepted that mobile phones are widely used by pupils and may be brought into the school at the owner's risk. Mobile phones must be powered off and kept out of sight while on school premises. If a student is using their mobile phone without a teacher's permission whilst in school, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. Persistent offences may lead to suspension. Students refusing to hand up a mobile phone, will have to meet with the Principal or Behaviour Monitor. If a student is found to be recording another member of the school community without permission, it will lead to an automatic suspension. Parents/Guardians who need to contact their children during the school day, should phone or call to the main office and messages will be relayed to the students, when needed.

Co-operation

We expect our learners to co-operate with staff both inside and outside the classroom during the school day to ensure that teaching and learning can proceed in a safe environment.

Bullying behaviour will not be tolerated as per our Anti-Bullying Policy.

We expect that our learners will know that their voice will be heard and respected. We expect our learners to give their best effort in classes.

Sanctions

All students will be assigned a Mentor to assist them in settling into Secondary School. Learner's normal Positive Behaviour will be celebrated. Misbehaviour will be dealt with using Restorative Practice, initially by the Class Teacher, then if necessary by the Class Mentor and Principal. Serious misbehaviour or breaches of Health and Safety may incur suspension or expulsion as detailed in the NEWB Guidelines.

Having outlined the expected behaviour, the Code outlines the sanctions when these standards are not met.

1. The teacher will discuss the behaviour with the student, providing them with an opportunity and support to alter their pattern of behaviour, using Restorative Practice Techniques.
2. A text will be sent home via VShare and the behaviour recorded.
3. If a student misses equipment or homework three times for the same class, they will have lunchtime detention.
4. Continuous texts and negative Behaviour Records on VShare will lead to the student being placed on a Behaviour Support Sheet for a period of time. They will be offered other supports which may help them develop positive behaviour patterns.
5. If the student's behaviour does not improve adequately whilst on the support sheet, we may request a meeting with parents or the student may be suspended. Students will be present for part of this meeting.
6. If the student's behaviour continues to be problematic the Board of Discipline will be called to form.

Points of Information.

If a student's breach of discipline is of such a serious nature this may justify immediate action by the Mentor/ Board of Discipline / Principal / Board of Management.

Suspension

Suspension will be imposed when the Principal or Deputy Principal (when appointed) is satisfied that it is warranted for serious offences or where a student has failed to respond to other forms of sanction for repeated misbehaviour. Appropriate advance notice is given and suspension will be imposed for a fixed number of days, at the expiry of which the student may return to school. Contact is also made with the parents/guardians to discuss the matter (on telephone and/or in person) and to outline the conditions under which such a return may be permitted.

Suspension is defined as requiring the student to absent himself / herself from class or from school for a specified, limited period of school days.

The Grounds for Suspension:

Suspension is a serious sanction and should be a proportionate response to the behaviour that is causing concern. It may be considered in the following circumstances:

- the student's behaviour has had a seriously detrimental effect on the education of other students
- repeated breaches of the Code of Positive Behaviour or Anti-Bullying Policy
- the student's continued presence in the school at this time constitutes a threat to safety of themselves and / or others
- the student is responsible for serious damage to property

This list is not exhaustive of the possible grounds for suspension

Expulsion

When all steps of the disciplinary process have been exhausted, the Principal may then propose a Motion to Expel to the Board of Management. The Board of Management will hear from both the school management and the student and parents/guardians before deciding whether to uphold or reject the motion to expel. All decisions are open to appeal (under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998).