

Scoil Chríost Rí,
Rockfield, Coolaney, Co. Sligo. F56 FW32
071 91 30539

Email: info@rockfieldns.eu

Website: www.rockfieldns.eu

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Scope:

The Code of Behaviour applies to pupils in Scoil Chríost Rí, Rockfield, Coolaney, Co. Sligo and should be observed while in school and while attending any school activities including tours, sporting and cultural events etc. It takes cognisance of the Education Act 1998, the Education Welfare Act 2000, the Equal Status Act 2002 and EPSEN 2004 and should be read in conjunction with the Internet Acceptable Use Policy, Substance Use Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Health and Safety Policy and Enrolment Policy.

1. **Relationship to our Mission, Vision and Aims:**

Our aim in presenting this policy to parents is to ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated. Equally we acknowledge the right of each child to an education in a disruptive free and non-threatening environment.

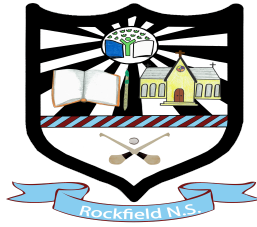
2. **Rationale:**

We will adopt a positive approach to behaviour in school. We will keep the rules to a minimum and will teach these rules to the children in such a way that they will understand that these rules ensure the smooth running of the school for the maximum benefit and safety to all members of our school community. The Code of Behaviour ensures that good behaviour and positive relationships are fostered.

3. **Objectives of the Code of Behaviour:**

The objectives of our Code of Behaviour are:

- a) To foster an atmosphere in the school which promotes the holistic development of the student and which allows positive relationships to flourish.
- b) To create a safe and secure learning environment for all students by promoting a sense of mutual respect among all members of the school community.
- c) To nurture self-discipline and encourage pupils to take responsibility for their learning.
- d) To make every effort to match the curriculum to the activities, aptitudes and interests of each pupil.
- e) To make teachers and parents aware of procedures for dealing with challenging behaviour and infringement of school rules.
- f) To ensure compliance with HSE/Government guidelines and follow all protocols



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4. **Guidelines:**

By enrolling their children in our school, parents indicate agreement with the aims and ethos of the school and are acknowledging acceptance of the Code of Behaviour.

There is a strong sense of community associated with our school and co-operation will be required from all members of this community to implement the code, namely staff, pupils and parents.

Acceptance of the terms and conditions of this Code of Behaviour will be a prerequisite to enrolment/continuing education in the school.

5. **Rewards / Incentives:**

We will promote positive behaviour in Scoil Chríost Rí as we feel that this will, in the long run, give the best result. Praise and encouragement in lessons and around the school should be used as much as possible.

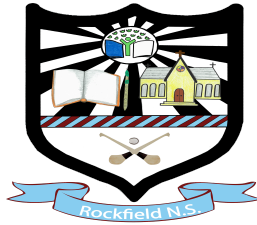
6. **Promoting Positive Academic and Social Behaviours:**

- Building positive relationships with students
- Teacher attention, encouragement and praise
- Motivating children through incentives
- Giving clear commands and instructions
- Giving choices
- Non-verbal signals and prompts

7. **Decreasing Inappropriate Behaviour:**

Sanctions are necessary to show disapproval of and discourage unacceptable behaviour. Sanctions will be graded according to the particular circumstances and will be applied according to the gravity of the misbehaviour, with due regard to the age, emotional and intellectual development of the child. From time to time, it will emerge that the pupil causing difficulties in school, does so in response to significant problems outside the school. While solving such problems is beyond the brief of the school, cognisance must be taken of them, in so far as is practical, but only to the extent that they do not impinge on the learning process and safety of others. We will attempt to decrease inappropriate behaviours through:

- Ignoring disruptive behaviour where it is appropriate and safe to do so.
- Redirecting
- Reminders / Warnings
- Logical Consequences / Sanctions
- Time Out



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- Restorative Justice

Sanctions will take account of the pupils:

- Behaviour record to date
- The seriousness of the offence

9. Our school's Discipline Hierarchy:

- Reminder 1 i.e. Reasoning with the pupil
- Reminder 2 i.e. Reprimand, including advice on how to improve
- Time Out (Temporary separation from peers, friends or others) / Work Chore i.e. carrying out a useful task in the school. / Detention AND Communication with parents leading to an Individual Behaviour Plan being put in place where necessary
- Referral from the teacher to the Principal
- Suspension (in accordance with the Education Act 1998 and the Education Welfare Act 2000)
- Expulsion (in accordance with the Education Act 1998 and the Education Welfare Act 2000). Before suspending or expelling a pupil the Board shall notify the local Education Welfare Officer, in accordance with Sections 21 and 24 of the Education Welfare Act

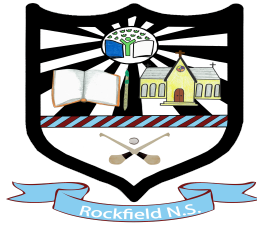
Please Note:

- Pupils will not be deprived of engagement in a Curricular Area except on the grounds of Health/ Safety, where they pose a serious threat to themselves or others
- Suspensions will be based on the degree of seriousness and persistence of the behaviour
- Teachers will keep a written record of all instances of serious misbehaviour as well as a record of improvement in the behaviour of pupils who have displayed challenging behaviour. Before resorting to serious sanctions e.g. suspension, the Discipline Hierarchy will have been followed, the normal channels of communication between our school, parents/guardians and the services of relevant outside agencies will be utilised
- Teachers have a duty of care towards the pupils in the school – that of a reasonable, prudent parent. Therefore, in situations where the health and safety of a member of the school community is at risk, staff members may physically restrain pupils

10. School Rules:

Safety: For my own safety and that of others:

- a) I should be careful coming to and going from school
- b) I should always walk while in the school building
- c) I should remain seated at all times in class and while eating lunch. Lunch is eaten in the classroom



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- d) I should always show respect for my fellow pupils, all staff and visitors
- e) I should always bring a note of explanation following absences
- f) I should never leave the school grounds without the permission of the Principal
- g) I should follow all hygiene rules/advice

Caring for Myself:

- a) I should respect myself and my property, always keeping my school uniform, bag, books, and copies in good order (Uniforms and all other property should be labelled)
- b) I should be in school by 9.20 a.m
- c) I should show respect for my school
- d) I should always be aware of my personal cleanliness. In the interests of hygiene and safety long hair should be tied back, jewellery should be kept to a minimum (e.g. watches, studded earrings). Make-up is not permitted nor are aerosols
- e) I should always bring a sensible, nutritional lunch to school
- f) I should always do my best in school by listening carefully, working as hard as I can and by completing my homework
- g) I should follow hygiene rules/advice

Caring for Others:

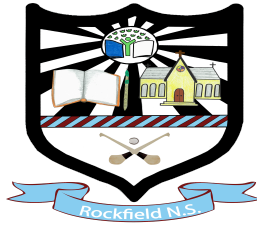
- a) I should be kind and respectful to all staff, visitors and fellow pupils by being mannerly and polite, by taking turns and by remaining silent and orderly in my class line
- b) I should behave well in class so that my fellow pupils and I can learn
- c) I should always keep my school clean. I should show respect for the property of others, the school building and grounds
- d) I should be truthful and honest at all times
- e) I should not have a mobile phone at school
- f) I should follow hygiene rules/advice

11. Minor Misbehaviour:

- Interrupting Class Work
- Running in the school building
- Talking in class line
- Leaving seat without permission
- Being discourteous / unmannerly
- Not completing homework without good reason

12. Serious Misbehaviour:

1. Repeated, ongoing and sustained bullying of others by threats, physical or verbal, violence or pressure on other children not to do their best, exclusion, e-bullying, gesture bullying



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2. Serious challenge to authority, aggressive or threatening behaviour towards a teacher or any other member of our school community. These may also fall into gross misbehaviour category depending on circumstances
3. Racism in the form of a verbal or physical assault based on colour, creed or ethnic origins
4. Theft
5. Damage to property / school furnishings
6. Leaving school premises during the school day without appropriate permission
7. Using unacceptable language
8. Misusing ICT and social media
9. Taking photos or making recordings, using mobile phones
10. Repeatedly not completing homework
11. Deliberate coughing, sneezing or spitting on others

Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents/guardians will be requested to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson and the Board.

13. Gross Misbehaviour:

In the case of gross misbehaviour, the Board shall authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension. Suspensions will be based on the persistence of such behaviour.

14. Cases of Immediate Suspension:

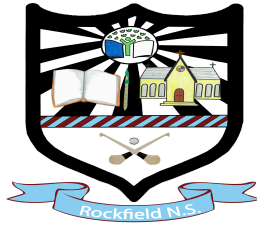
1. Violent assault towards any pupil or staff member, causing bodily harm
2. Bringing a violent / destructive / dangerous implement to school and either using it, or threatening to use it
3. Being in possession of an illegal substance or substances
4. Serious damage to school property or the property of others (e.g. cars)

The degree of misdemeanours i.e. minor/ serious/ gross will be judged by the teachers and/or Principal based on a 'common sense approach' with regard to the gravity and frequency of such misdemeanours.

If the pupil shows no sign of improvement following the involvement of outside support services and three suspensions within the same academic year, the school may expel the pupil.

Our school reserves the right to introduce new rules and add to the list of misdemeanours as and when the circumstances arise.

Parents, pupils and all staff members will be made aware of these additions.



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15. Positive Interventions:

To facilitate the inclusion of behaviourally challenging and reluctant pupils to engage with schooling, parents/guardians may be requested to attend the school to assist with supervision of their own child as a temporary measure, where the child is presenting as being a risk to himself/herself and/or others.

We will make every effort to have an emotionally disturbed child referred for psychological assessment and/or counselling. Help will also be sought from the support services within the wider community – HSE, The National Education Psychological Services (NEPS), the Department of Education and Skills and Túsla.

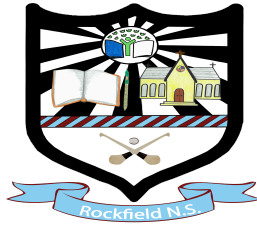
16. Behaviour in School and at School Functions:

Good behaviour in class and around the school creates a safe environment that is conducive to learning.

- a) All members of the school community have a right to be treated with dignity and respect and should treat others with dignity and respect
- b) Students should follow the instructions given by their teachers and other members of staff
- c) Students should not engage in actions where others may be adversely affected. This includes play fighting, running through the corridor or engaging in conduct potentially harmful to themselves or others
- d) The chewing of gum and eating of crisps and pop-corn is forbidden in school
- e) Behaviour during liturgies, formal events and presentations must be appropriate to the occasion

17. Bullying: (Please refer to Anti-Bullying Policy)

- Conduct which may harm the mental and physical well being of others is not conducive to good school morale or a secure learning environment
- Students should not engage in any activity that could be interpreted by others as harassment, intimidation or bullying
- Bullying is any repeated, ongoing and sustained aggression, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or a group against another person or persons. There is a detailed description of behaviours that are deemed inappropriate in our anti-bullying policy. Bí Cineálta Policy will replace the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2013 and will come into effect for 2025/2026



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- Bullying is not to be confused with the normal social interchange that takes place between children.
- All allegations of bullying will be investigated according to the procedures outlined in the anti-bullying policy and appropriate sanctions will be taken against those who bully.

18. Uniform:

We encourage the wearing of the school uniform to help promote a sense of belonging to the school community. Its full description can be obtained from “**Rockfield N.S. Information Booklet**”, our information booklet for parents.

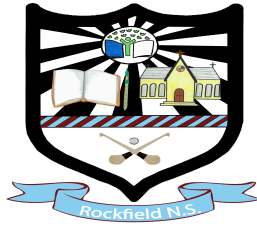
- a) Students should maintain a neat and tidy appearance
- b) All items of uniform should be clearly labelled
- c) Hairstyles should be neat. Hair should not be dyed or high-lighted
- d) One pair of stud earrings is allowed in the ear lobe
- e) Rings, bracelets and necklaces pose a Health/Safety risk and are not allowed in our school
- f) Make-up of any description may not be used by children. This includes concealer, fake tans, foundation and eye make-up
- g) Nail varnish should be kept for weekends and holidays
- h) Shoes should be navy/black street shoes (No sports labels e.g. Nike, Adidas, Vans, Converse, Lonsdale, Canterbury, Reebok, Puma - this list is non-exhaustive)
- i) Plain navy tracksuit and runners are required for P.E.

19. Internet:

- a. Pupils are expected to use computers and computer networks solely for the purpose of education and academic research
- b. Pupils may not misuse electronic mail or have access to internet sites that violate any aspect of this code of behaviour
- c. Any pupil using ICT/social media for the purpose of bullying a pupil, insulting or defaming a teacher, parent or any other staff member associated with the school and/or bringing the school into disrepute in any fashion, will be dealt with according to our sanctions

20. Mobile/Smart Phones and Devices:

- Mobile phones and “smart” watches/devices are strictly forbidden at school
- Any such device will be confiscated and will only be returned to the parent/guardian of that pupil



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- No photographs may be taken, or recordings, whether video or audio, be made with a mobile phone. Using phones in such ways can seriously infringe on people's rights and appropriate sanctions will be imposed

21. Board of Management's Responsibilities:

- Provide a comfortable, safe and stimulating environment
- Support the Principal and staff in implementing the Code
- Ratify the Code
- Review the Code

22. Principal's Responsibilities:

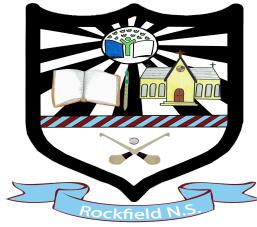
- ❖ Promote a positive climate in the school
- ❖ Ensure that the Code of Behaviour is implemented in a fair and consistent manner
- ❖ Arrange for review of the Code, as required

23. Teachers' Responsibilities:

- Support and implement the school's Code of Behaviour
- Create safe working environment for each pupil
- Recognise and affirm good work
- Prepare school work and correct work done by pupils
- Recognise and provide for individual talents and differences among pupils
- Be courteous, consistent and fair
- Keep opportunities for disruptive behaviour to a minimum
- Deal appropriately with misbehaviour
- Provide support for colleagues
- Communicate with parents when necessary and provide reports on matters of mutual concern

24. Pupil's Responsibilities:

- Attend school regularly and punctually
- Listen to their teachers and act on instructions/advice
- Show respect for all members of the school community
- Respect all school property and the property of other pupils
- Avoid behaving in any way which would endanger others
- Avoid all nasty remarks, swearing and name-calling



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- Include other pupils in games and activities
- Bring correct materials / books to school
- Follow school and class rules

25. Parents' / Guardians' Responsibilities:

- Encourage children to have a sense of respect for themselves and for property
- Ensure that children attend school regularly and punctually
- Be interested in, support and encourage their children's school work
- Be familiar with Code of Behaviour and support its implementation
- Co-operate with teachers in instances where their child's behaviour is causing difficulties for others
- Communicate with the school in relation to any problems which may affect their child's progress / behaviour
- Be responsible when using ICT/social media to avoid internet misuse, defaming a teacher, parent or any other staff member associated with the school and/or bringing the school into disrepute in any fashion
- To co-operate with the school's complaints procedures
- To adhere to the school policy on arrangements of appointments to discuss their child
- To ensure their child practises and are aware of the basics of good hygiene and ensure your child is in full health before attending school daily

Review:

In June 2025 this policy will be reviewed again by the Board of Management and every year thereafter.

The terms and conditions of this Code of Behaviour will be a prerequisite to enrolment.

Date: 8th October 2024