

Code of Behaviour Gaelcholáiste Cheatharlach

Scope of policy:

This code of behaviour has been developed following discussion with parents, teachers, students, Board of Management and Kilkenny/Carlow ETB and applies to the entire Gaelcholáiste Cheatharlach Student Body

Rationale:

In our school we hope to provide a safe environment where students feel happy and secure and their right to health and safety is protected. Effective learning requires a high level of attentiveness and participation on the part of pupils and the atmosphere in the classroom should be conducive to learning and free from disruption.

Our aim is to provide a framework for reasonable and responsible behaviour by all concerned by emphasising respect for students, teachers, parents, visitors and property.

Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate the individuality of each student whilst acknowledging the right of each student to a disruption free environment.

Every effort will be made to adopt a positive approach to behaviour by placing a greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions.

Our school recognises the variety of differences that exist between students and the need to seek to accommodate these differences.

The school may seek the assistance of National Educational Psychological Service, National Education and Welfare Board, Health Service Executive, Garda, or any relevant agency in dealing with breaches of our code of behaviour, which may occur from time to time.

School rules are there to ensure that our school is a safe and happy place for all concerned. The rules of behaviour of our school are kept to a minimum and apply to all students (See Attached: School Rules). However, it is necessary for individual teachers, in consultation with the school, to formulate specific rules in relation to classrooms, laboratories and specialist rooms regarding safety and the correct use of apparatus, equipment and teaching aids.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Principal has responsibility for discipline in the school.
- Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within his/her class.
- Each teacher shares a common responsibility for good order and discipline within the school premises, on school outings and when involved in school business in general.
- Teachers shall keep a written record of instances of misbehaviour as well as a record of improvements in behaviour of disruptive students.
- A student may be referred to the Principal or other nominated staff member for serious breaches of discipline and/or for repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour.
- Should a students' behaviour not improve, parents may be contacted with a view to gaining their cooperation in ensuring that the student conform to the schools code of behaviour.
- In cases where the normal disciplinary procedures have been exhausted suspension from school attendance may become necessary.
- It is the policy of our school to promote good behaviour. Good behaviour will be acknowledged in school reports. It will also be acknowledged to students and in writing to parents each term through our profiling system.
- Improvements in behaviour of disruptive students will be acknowledged in writing to parents from time to time.
- When problems occur, parents and students can contact the school to express their concerns and seek the assistance of the school in dealing with the problem

Sanctions:

Minor breaches of Code of Behaviour

The following strategies, may be used by the subject teacher:

- Reasoning with the student

- Reprimand –including advice and counselling on how to improve behaviour
- Extra homework or appropriate written assignment
- Lunch break detention.

Serious breaches of Code of Behaviour:

Repeated instances of minor misbehaviour or serious misbehaviour should be referred to the Class Teacher/ Year Head who may decide, in consultation with the Principal or his/her nominee, to use the following strategies having consulted with parents:

- Temporary separation from peers and loss of school privileges.
- Placed ‘on report’
- Lunchtime/breaktime detention
- Evening detention.
- Suspension from school attendance

When a student is to be placed on detention parents will be informed of the reasons for detention and the time and date when it will occur.

When a student is suspended from school attendance the parents/guardians will be informed of their right to appeal the decision.

When a period of suspension ends, the student will be re-admitted formally to the class by the Principal or his/her nominee. The readmission will involve the student, parents/guardians and relevant school personnel. An undertaking by the parents/guardians that the student will abide by the school code of behaviour will be sought and a ‘Contract of Good Behaviour’ may be required. In the case of gross misbehaviour the Principal or his/her nominee, exercising the authority delegated to him/her by the Board of Management may sanction immediate suspension from school attendance, pending a discussion on the matter with the parents/guardians who will be informed of their right to appeal the decision.

The school has a policy to deal with bullying, harassment and sexual harassment. The procedures in this policy will be implemented when such instances occur.

It is the responsibility of parents to explain all absences in writing to the school. The school is obliged to report all absences to the National Education and Welfare Board.

Expulsion:

(See Suspension and Expulsion Policy)

Expulsion from school will be considered only as a final resort and usually only after every effort at rehabilitation has failed or where the health and safety of students and staff is deemed to be at risk.

Where expulsion is being considered a period of suspension from school attendance will apply.

This is intended to afford the parents/guardians, the student and the school the opportunity to prepare to present their case to the Board of Management.

The Board will consider the case in the absence of the Principal and the Parents/Guardians.

The decision of the Board of Management will be communicated to the parents/guardians.

Should the Board decide to expel the student the decision will be communicated to Kilkenny/Carlow ETB and the National Education and Welfare Board.

Misdemeanours:

- Isolated minor breaches of school regulations
- Isolated infringements related to school work and homework

Continuous Misdemeanours:

- Repeated minor infringements of school rules
- Repeated infringements of school work and homework

Serious and/or gross misbehaviour:

- Assault on any member of the school community
- Possession of illegal substances
- Sale or distribution of illegal substances
- Possession and/or use of weapons
- Malicious damage to any property
- Any behaviour that is deemed a threat to the health and safety of others
- Aggressive threatening or insulting behaviour

The above lists are not exhaustive.

Adopted by Board of Management, Tuesday 10th February 2009.