

PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

ST PATRICK'S PS DERRYGONNELLY

Policy reviewed and agreed by all staff: June 2024

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairperson, Board of Governors

INTRODUCTION

St Patrick's strives to provide a safe and enriched environment where success is celebrated and the pursuit of excellence is emphasised. Relationships are at the core of everything we do in St Patrick's. The school aims to foster values of mutual respect and promote the well-being and self-esteem of all members of our school community.

RATIONALE

At St Patrick's PS, our Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy is a fundamental element of our overall Pastoral Care Programme and aims to ensure that all pupils within our care are educated in a safe, secure and caring environment. All staff at the school believe that:

- each pupil is an important member of our school community, entrusted to our care by his/her parents;
- each staff member is an important member of the school community and a professional, entitled to the respect and support of parents;
- quality relationships which are based on mutual respect between teacher and pupil promote good discipline;
- high expectations by teachers of pupils in relation to both their work and behaviour are essential to the success of the school's Positive Behaviour Policy.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Board of Governors, teachers and staff aim to foster a caring, Christian community which promotes the full and balanced development of each person in harmony with God, oneself, others and the environment.

GENERAL AIMS OF ST PATRICK'S

St Patrick's PS aims:

- to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils, in accordance with the requirements of The N Ireland Curriculum;
- to determine each pupil's potential and provide opportunities to develop this to the full;
- to provide for each pupil a secure, stimulating and imaginative environment where individual success and satisfaction is achieved
- to develop an awareness of self and a sensitivity to others, acquire a set of moral values and the confidence to make and hold to moral judgements and develop habits of self-discipline and acceptable behaviour.
- to promote opportunities for parents to play a meaningful role in the education of their children.
- to identify with the life of the local community and to share with neighbouring schools
- to continue to strengthen and preserve the Catholic ethos which already permeates the environment of the school and, by doing so, to develop a set of values and beliefs which reflect good citizenship.

BACKGROUND

In St Patrick's PS we see good behaviour as a prerequisite to learning and achievement for all pupils. We recognise that the promotion of good behaviour is the remit of all in the school community: for pupils, teaching/non-teaching staff, parents and the Board of Governors.

The 2003 Statutory Requirements (Education & Libraries NI Order) requires schools to 'encourage good behaviour and respect for others and in particular prevent all forms of bullying.'

St Patrick's resourced all classrooms with the Barnardos programme, Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS) in the academic year 2015-2016 and all teachers have been trained to implement this programme at whole school level.

PRINCIPLES

The school's Positive Behaviour Policy:

- promotes the core values of the school, as expressed in our Mission Statement;
- promotes good behaviour, respect for oneself and others;
- takes account of the rights and responsibilities of pupils;
- is based on a whole school approach and will be widely disseminated among staff, pupils and parents, who, through the process of consultation, will have a clear understanding of what the policy aims to achieve;
- is dependent on a shared understanding of what all in the school community believe and agree is acceptable behaviour.
- is linked to the following school policies: Child Protection, Anti-Bullying, Pastoral care; RE, PDMU and SEN.

PURPOSES

The school's Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy seeks to:

- promote and encourage acceptable behaviour by all pupils in the school;
- create a physically and emotionally safe environment where positive relationships and social skills are emphasised and the positive ethos of the school is upheld and promoted by all in the school community;
- create an ordered and caring environment where teaching and learning can occur;
- develop within our pupils a sense of responsibility, promote their self-esteem and foster self-discipline and respect for themselves and others;
- clarify for all staff the protocol and practice to be followed in dealing with unacceptable behaviour and promote consistency of approach among all staff in dealing with such behaviour;
- Clarify our expectations with regard to the standards of behaviour and work ethic which we, as a staff, aspire to in order to ensure that all learners achieve success commensurate with their level of ability.
- develop positive attitudes among parents about what is acceptable behaviour, as per the school's Positive Behaviour Policy, and encourage their active support and endorsement of the policy;
- define our expectations with regard to what constitutes appropriate behaviour and a clear distinction is made between unkind, unacceptable, behavioural mistakes and bullying behaviour.

PRACTICES

The school's Positive Behaviour Policy embraces the need to:

- develop caring relationships among pupils, parents, teachers and support staff;
- consult with all in the school community, access the widespread support of all in the school and is a working document to be used by all staff;
- provide for regular training and updates for all staff;
- be monitored continuously for its effectiveness in the delivery of the principles, as set out above, and reviewed annually by the Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator, in conjunction with the principal and Board of Governors.

CONSULTATION

This policy has been developed and is consistent with The Education & Libraries (NI) Order 2003 and DE Circular 2003/13 - Welfare and Protection of Pupils Education and Libraries (NI) Order 2003, through a process of consultation, involving pupils and their parents. Consultation with pupils is facilitated through:

- class based workshops
- class and school council meetings
- questionnaires to all in the school community

RIGHTS, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS

ROLE OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors will:

- have overall responsibility for ensuring a Positive Behaviour Policy is in place; The Education and Libraries (NI) Order 2003 places a statutory duty on the Board of Governors to safeguard and promote the welfare of all registered pupils at the school at all times when the pupils are on the school premises or in the lawful control or charge of a member of the school staff;
- set down general guidelines on standards of behaviour and discipline;
- review the effectiveness of strategies promoted in the policy;
- support the principal in following the guidelines agreed in the policy;
- ensure the policy is administered fairly and consistently.

ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL

The principal is responsible for:

- the consistent implementation of the school behaviour policy throughout the school;
- reporting to governors, when required, on the effectiveness of the policy;
- consulting with registered pupils and their parents before deciding upon measures to encourage good behaviour and to prevent bullying. Education & Libraries (NI) Order 2003;
- ensuring due regard is given to the health, safety and welfare of both staff and pupils in school
- maintaining records of all reported serious incidents of inappropriate behaviour;
- imposing fixed-term suspensions on individual children for serious acts of misbehaviour;
- the expulsion of a pupil for repeated or very serious acts of anti-social behaviour;
- ensure school wide supervision by all staff is vigilant and effective and that responses to inappropriate behaviour are prompt, consistent and restorative;

In the event of the need to suspend or expel a pupil, the principal will consult with the Board of Governors and CCMS prior to the planned action.

THE ROLE OF THE PASTORAL CARE CO-ORDINATOR

The Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator has a duty to:

- ✓ support the principal in ensuring that The Positive Behaviour Policy is implemented fairly and consistently by all school staff;
- ✓ advise all staff members of their roles and responsibilities in ensuring the success of this policy;
- ✓ monitor pupil behaviour records at the end of each term;
- ✓ review this policy for its effectiveness and develop new approaches, if required, in conjunction with SMT.

THE ROLE OF THE CLASS TEACHER

Rights of Teachers	Responsibilities of Teacher
<p>Teachers have a right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ work in an environment where common courtesies and social conventions are respected; ○ express their views and contribute to policies which they are required to reflect in their work; ○ support and advice from senior colleagues and external bodies; ○ adequate and appropriate accommodation and resources. 	<p>All teachers will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ provide a challenging, interesting and relevant curriculum; ✓ be consistent and fair; ✓ behave in a professional manner at all times; ✓ prepare and resource lessons thoroughly, giving due account of the ability and aptitude of pupils ✓ maintain high but realistic expectations of all pupils, in terms of both their work and behaviour; ✓ show interest and enthusiasm in pupils' work and learning ✓ set tasks which ensure all pupils will achieve success in their work; ✓ recognise and reward positive 'Golden Behaviour' as and when it occurs, both in and out of the classroom; ✓ implement and promote the Golden Rules in their classrooms; ✓ praise all achievement regularly; ✓ treat all pupils with respect and understanding as per 'Our Rights Respecting ethos'; ✓ liaise with SENCO and external agencies to access support and guidance on the progress of pupils who are giving concern; EA SEBD team, Educational Psychologist; CALMS

Rights and Responsibilities of all Non-Teaching Staff

Rights of Non-Teaching Staff	Responsibilities of Non-Teaching Staff
<p>Support staff have a right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ be valued as members of the school community○ be treated fairly and with respect by pupils and all members of teaching staff○ have adequate facilities and resources to enable them to perform their duties effectively○ be well informed about school rules and procedures○ have the opportunity to contribute ideas and have them taken into consideration when decisions concerning the smooth running of the school are being taken.	<p>All staff have the responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ arrive at school on time, well prepared for the day ahead✓ co-operate with colleagues and teaching staff✓ act in such a manner in order to secure the safety of all pupils at all times✓ share with teaching staff any concerns they have about pupils✓ be aware of school rules and procedures✓ handle sensitive information in a confidential manner at all times✓ seek support from colleagues and SMT as and when required

THE ROLE OF ALL STAFF (teaching and non-teaching)

ALL staff are duty bound to promote positive behaviour and will do so in the following ways:

- demonstrate by example the high standards of personal and pro-social behaviour we expect of pupils;
- develop and maintain positive relationships with all stakeholders;
- treat all pupils fairly and with respect;
- create a physically and emotionally safe, happy, caring and stimulating environment;
- foster self-esteem in all pupils; explore, agree and reinforce their rights and responsibilities to others and their mutual safety needs;
- use positive language to communicate expectations and provide feedback to pupils;
- praise and reward pupils who are generally disruptive as soon as acceptable behaviour is observed;

THE ROLE OF PUPILS

The staff of St Patrick's PS accept that all pupils have the right:

- ✓ to a broad and balanced curriculum at a pace and level commensurate with their learning needs;
- ✓ to be taught in a caring and stimulating environment
- ✓ to be treated positively and fairly.

All Staff has agreed that pupils have the following rights and responsibilities:

Rights of Pupils	Responsibilities of Pupils
<p>Pupils have a right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ feel safe and secure within the school environment which promotes a Rights Respecting Ethos. ○ be valued as members of the school community and treated fairly and with respect. ○ be consulted about matters that affect them, and have their views listened to and, as far as is reasonable, acted upon. ○ access to an appropriately planned education and resourced curriculum. ○ be acknowledged for all effort in achievement in both classwork and homework. ○ be positively affirmed for abiding by the school's code of conduct. ○ a sympathetic hearing. ○ have opportunities to pursue and develop interests, talents and abilities. 	<p>We expect our pupils to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ be familiar with the School Code of Conduct: The Golden Rules and model these rules in their daily interaction with others ○ treat all in the school community with dignity and respect and contribute positively to all aspects of school life. ○ model their attitude to learning and behaviour in accordance with the school's mission statement. ○ behave in a safe and responsible manner. ○ report any behavioural issues which they have witnessed and intervene, if safe to do so, when an incident occurs. ○ seek help from supervisors, teachers etc when experiencing difficulties. ○ walk away from a situation which may entice them to respond negatively; ○ accept ownership for their own behaviour and learning; ○ co-operate with their teachers, support staff and fellow pupils; ○ be honest and open with staff, fellow pupils and parents; ○ be aware of their personal choices in relation to behaviour. ○ engage in good behaviour which allows learning to take place and respects the rights of others to avail of quality learning experiences. ○ demonstrate a positive self-image and become confident individuals. ○ be aware of the effect of their actions on others; ○ be aware of the consequences which they must face when their behaviour does not comply with the rules of the school.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

The staff of St Patrick's respect the right of parents to adequate information about their child, to be listened to and to know that their children will be taught in a safe and secure environment where lessons are differentiated according to their child's learning needs.

Rights of Parents	Responsibilities of Parents
<p>Parents have the right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ have their child educated in a safe, well-managed, caring and stimulating environment. ➤ the provision of a broad, balanced, challenging and appropriate curriculum for their child. ➤ be well informed about school rules and procedures. ➤ be informed about their child's physical and emotional well-being. ➤ be informed regularly about their child's academic performance. ➤ have their children taught in a well-resourced and well maintained classroom. ➤ reasonable access to the school and staff and to have their enquiries and concerns dealt with sympathetically and efficiently. ➤ be consulted on all policies which directly involve their children. ➤ be involved in key decisions about their child's education. 	<p>Parents have a responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ensure their child attends school regularly, arrives punctually at school and is collected by themselves or by a designated adult at the correct time. ➤ ensure their child comes to school prepared for the day ahead, with the appropriate equipment, books and materials required for class. ➤ ensure their child wears the proper school uniform; ➤ familiarise themselves with school rules, class rules and Golden Rules and promote them accordingly; ➤ display an interest in their child's school work and ensure all homework is completed appropriately; ➤ act as positive role models for their child in their relationship with school staff. ➤ show an interest in their child's school work, attend meetings and school functions. ➤ provide the school with all necessary background information about their child, ie report any concerns they have about school, or any significant change in child's medical needs or home circumstances. ➤ Inform school of their child's special medical needs. ➤ check their child's school diary for homework and comments from teacher and respond in diary to teacher. ➤ encourage independence and self-management skills in their child. ➤ encourage their child to be self-disciplined and develop independence in their learning; ➤ meet with teacher/staff when requested; ➤ support all school policies;

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL

All staff have a pastoral responsibility towards children in their care and should take reasonable steps to ensure the welfare of all children is safeguarded and their safety preserved. To ensure this duty is addressed appropriately, all staff will:

- work together to create a happy and secure environment where everyone is valued and treated with respect and contribute, in whatever way possible, to the protection and maintenance of such an environment.
- focus on the positive aspect of discipline, rather than the punitive element of it.

SCHOOL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

CODE OF CONDUCT

The school's Code of Conduct is enshrined in The Six Golden Rules:

- We are gentle. We do not hurt others.
- We are kind and helpful. We do not hurt the feelings of others.
- We listen. We do not interrupt.
- We are honest. We do not cover up the truth.
- We work hard. We do not waste our own time or that of others.
- We look after property. We do not waste or damage property.

SCHOOL RULES

- We wear our school uniform with pride and do our school proud by adhering to the school's Code of Conduct;
- We arrive at school punctually.
- We line up quickly and quietly when the bell rings.
- We walk quietly at all times in the school building and in the dining hall.

CLASS RULES

Each class will work together to produce their own class rules which will enable all pupils to access teaching and learning in a safe, respectful, happy and stimulating environment.

STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

In St Patrick's PS we believe that 'in order to teach the child we must be able to reach the child.' To do this, as a school, we must create emotionally literate classrooms where the feelings of children are expressed and validated by teachers. Therefore, the staff of St Patrick's PS will use the following strategies to promote positive behaviour among all pupils:

- display and teach the Golden Rules and refer to them when inappropriate behaviour occurs;
- use traffic lights system to encourage consistent application of school and class rules;
- use PATHS, Circle Time and PDMU to enhance pupils' self-esteem, provide opportunities for pupils to voice their feelings and develop skills to manage their feelings, become more 'self-aware' and take responsibility for their own behaviour.
- use school and class council meetings as a forum for pupils to voice their concerns, discuss issues which affect them and what could be changed or improved in school;

- provide Golden Time for all well-behaved pupils;
- catch pupils with behavioural issues being good and praise them in presence of others;
- use PDMU to reinforce the need for appropriate pro-social behaviours and empathy for others;
- encourage other pupils to promote good behaviour among their peers;
- appoint prefects who will intervene when inappropriate behaviour occurs;
- report child to his/her class teacher for his/her good behaviour;
- provide peer support from PG/7 pupils trained as PATHS Playground Pals;
- incorporate personal and social education programmes which promote pupils' consideration and respect for others, enhance their self-respect, confidence and self-esteem and, through suitably challenging classroom approaches, provide opportunities for them to develop their assertiveness and self-protection skills.
- Invite outside agencies to deliver Anti-Bullying workshops for pupils;
- early intervention programmes, including suitable incentives to encourage good behaviour;
- the provision of appropriate staff development and effective links with the relevant external support agencies;
- engage positively with parents and encourage their support in promoting good behaviour in school;
- provide a copy of school's Promoting Positive Behaviour to parents on school's website.

OUR REWARDS SYSTEM

Our Rewards System aims to promote and encourage positive behaviour and therefore is meaningful to all pupils. Our rewards are verbal, non-verbal and tangible. All rewards will be commensurate with the behaviour exhibited and provide the required incentive for repetition of the positive behaviour.

- ✓ Non-verbal rewards may include a smile, a nod, a thumbs-up sign, a handshake.
- ✓ verbal rewards include words of commendation, praise, written comments in homework diary, praisepadz to inform parents of achievements in terms of work or behaviour; praise from peers.
- ✓ Golden Time.
- ✓ Compliments Certificates.
- ✓ Stickers, stars, smiley faces, small material rewards such as pencils, rubbers, notebooks etc.
- ✓ Attendance Awards.
- ✓ Pupil certificate distributed at weekly assembly.
- ✓ Classroom treats.
- ✓ Special note of commendation for a pupil in class or at assembly.
- ✓ A quiet word of encouragement.

We, as a staff, believe it is essential that all children receive positive encouragement and are given the opportunity to enjoy the positive rewards listed above. The success of pupils, whether in work or behaviour, should be measured against their previous performances rather than against that of other pupils in their class.

Whole School House Reward System

Each child in school is allocated a house - Ulster, Munster, Leinster, Connacht. Pupils earn reward positive behaviour tokens for displaying aspects of TREK (Truth, Respect, Empathy and Kindness) Pupils receive 10 points for displaying positive behaviour and Golden tokens (100 points) for going above and beyond. All rewards are calculated and allocated on Assembly day.

SANCTIONS

Consequences or sanctions are, occasionally, necessary to uphold the rules and procedures outlined above, to focus the child's thinking and to demonstrate to other pupils that certain behaviour is unacceptable. Appropriate sanctions will be applied in accordance with the nature of the offence, the age of the pupil and any emerging pattern of behaviour displayed by the pupil. It is important to note that a one-off lapse in good behaviour will not incur the same sanctions as continuous, persistent unacceptable behaviour.

MAKING the CONSEQUENCES fit the INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

The staff of St Patrick's PS have classified inappropriate behaviour according to the severity of it and have put in place a range of consequences to be applied in dealing with misbehaviour.

Low Level Misbehaviour	Range of Consequences
Talking out of turn Shouting out Leaving their seat at the wrong time Homework undone Not actively listening Not paying attention Distracting others Making Noises Failing to keep on task Leaving work area untidy Pushing in the line Running in the corridors	Verbal warning Move to another seat Complete homework the following night Use of Golden Time Strategies PATHS Traffic Lights Strategy Thinking Time Chair
Moderate Level Misbehaviour	Range of Hierarchical Consequences
Persistently talking out of turn Persistently shouting out Persistently leaving seat at the wrong time Persistently not doing homework Persistently not listening Persistently not paying attention Persistently distracting others Persistently making noises Persistently failing to keep on task Persistently leaving work area untidy *Hitting with intent to cause harm * Pushing forcefully Refusal to co-operate	Option 1: Think, Time, Discussion Sheet Option 2: Send pupil to another teacher. Complete Class Behaviour Report Record. Option 3: Inform parents using homework diary/ home-school link book, and/or phone-call Option 4: Daily 'Behaviour Report' initiated. The pupil may be considered for placement on the SEN register for behavioural issues.
Serious Level Misbehaviour	Range of Consequences
Wilfully refusing to adhere to arrangements for social distancing Deliberately coughing or spitting at another pupil or staff member putting him/her at risk of becoming infected with Covid-19 Disregarding/disrespecting adults within the school Stealing Wilfully damaging school property, including writing graffiti Physically/emotionally/verbally hurting another	1) Pupil will be sent to a member of SMT and the parent is invited to a meeting with class teacher, SENCO, and principal. 2) Consider referral to Educational Psychologist 3) Consider suspension/expulsion 4) Record action in Pastoral Care Folder

pupil (bullying behaviour) Serious physical/verbal threat made to staff/pupil. Displaying violent behaviour Leaving school without permission.	
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STAFF TRAINING

Staff Training is provided every 2 years by EA Behaviour Management team. **All** staff attend the training. Further training may be provided for school staff when the need is identified or when new staff are appointed to the school.

*Staff will use their professional judgement to determine 'intent to harm' and also to consider an age-appropriate response.

**Pupils on Stage 3 COP for SEBD - reasonable adjustments may be considered with regard to issuing of sanctions, use of consequences.

LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES

The school's Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy is linked to the following school policies:

- Pastoral Care Policy,
- Child Protection
- Health & Safety Policy;
- Use of Reasonable Force Policy;
- Effective Teaching and Learning Policy;
- SEN Policy;
- Anti-Bullying Policy

and reinforces the values espoused by the school in its mission statement and, like them, seeks to create a safe, caring environment in which effective teaching and learning can take place and all pupils are given the opportunity to develop to their full potential.

POLICY REVIEW

The policy will be reviewed every three years and updated where necessary in keeping with new DENI initiatives and legislation. Staff will monitor the effectiveness of the policy and an assessment made of the success of the approaches and procedures advocated by the policy in encouraging positive attitudes on the part of the pupils, keeping unacceptable behaviour to a minimum and creating a climate within the school which is conducive to positive relationships and effective learning and teaching. Where weaknesses are found, a review will be necessary and will be done through a consultation process with all staff, (teaching and non-teaching), the pupils, The Board of Governors, and the parents. Where significant change is required, parents will be consulted and consultation with parents on our Positive Behaviour Policy will take place every three years. The review will take account of current needs and be reflected in current practice.

Acknowledgements:

Pastoral Care in Schools-Promoting Positive Behaviour DENI 2001

Disability Discrimination Code of Practice for Schools, SENDO (NI) Order 2005

Promoting & Sustaining Good Behaviour in schools: Summary of New Legislative Provisions

The Education & Libraries (NI) Order 2003

Pastoral Care in Schools- Child Protection - Code of Conduct for staff 1999/2000

Statutory Rule No 99: Schools (Suspension and Expulsion of pupils) Regulations N Ireland 1985
The Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2006
CCMS: Pastoral Care 2006
Dept. of Education Circular 2003/13 Welfare and Protection for pupils
The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
The Schools (Suspension & Expulsion of Pupils) Regulations (N. Ireland) 1995/1998
Department of Education: 'Pastoral Care in Schools-Promoting Positive Behaviour'
N.I Anti-Bullying Forum: Responding to Bullying Behaviour

