

Meánscoil Iognáid Rís,
Nás na Rí,
Co. Chill Dara.



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Meánscoil Iognáid Rís

Code of Behaviour

1. Introduction

High standards of work and co-operation together with an excellent atmosphere are distinctive features of Meánscoil Iognáid Rís. In order to maintain these high standards, students are expected to be well-mannered, courteous and hardworking at all times. The core value of Respect remains a guiding principle in all our work in the school. The aim of the Code of Behaviour is to give students a guide to what is expected of them and to ensure that high standards (which will benefit all students) pervade the school.

As a Christian Brothers School now in the Edmund Rice Schools Trust, our Code of Behaviour has been drawn up to reflect the values and principles of the *Charter*. The Code of Behaviour will reflect:-

- (a) The Vision for the Edmund Rice Schools: *promoting full personal and social development in caring Christian communities of learning and teaching*
- (b) The Mission of the Edmund Rice Schools: *to provide Catholic Education in the Edmund Rice Tradition*

2. Promoting good behaviour

Meánscoil Iognáid Rís through its Code of Behaviour affirms the rights of all students to a positive learning environment which is free from disruption. Promoting good behaviour and preventing inappropriate behaviour are the main goals of the Code of Behaviour.

We recognise and affirm positive behaviour, progress and effort within the classroom and the wider school. This is done on a formal and informal basis by:

- Fostering and encouraging positive relationships within the whole school community
- Treating all pupils equally and fairly
- Valuing and acknowledging each pupil.
- Promoting excellence in teaching and learning
- Teachers modelling values that inspire students and pupil/teacher interaction both inside and outside the classroom
- Verbally praising students' work and conduct in class
- Positive comments in the Journal and/or on homework
- Student Newsletters
- Promoting positive relationships and behaviour at Registration and at Assembly
- Form Teachers and Year Heads working with students
- Providing a wide range of extra-curricular activities
- The support of our Chaplain & the Guidance and Counselling Team
- Promoting the involvement of parents including:
 - Formal & Informal contact
 - Parent- Teacher meetings
 - Christmas and Summer Reports
 - Use of the Journal
 - The Parents' Council
 - Use of the school app

- Encouraging student involvement through:
 - Promotion of the student voice in all school matters
 - Extra-curricular activities
 - Meitheal
 - Prefects
 - Student Council
- Recognising achievement through intercom announcements, the school web-site and the school app.
- By the school's Awards system including
 - Class awards for Best Student & Best Effort
 - Sports awards
 - Scholarships to the Gaeltacht
 - Br Carr Award for Best First Year student
 - Award for best Junior Certificate result
 - Leaving Cert annual awards, including many awards given to students who embody the school spirit of "Dílseacht agus Dúthracht" (loyalty and diligence)
 - Denis Dunning Award
 - Leaving Certificate Bursaries

3. Our Expectations and Guiding Rules

The key principles of Meánscoil Iognáid Rís are:

Respect for People
Respect for Property
Application to Work

3.1 Behaviour

- Students are expected to be well-behaved and courteous at all times.
- This includes during class, in all areas of the school, coming to & going from school, downtown during lunchtime or while away on a school trip. All students are expected to show respect for members of staff whether in or outside the school.
- Students should not congregate at the school-gate or its vicinity.

3.2 Learning Environment

So that everybody gets the very best chance to learn:

- Students are expected to have relevant books, equipment, Journal and copies with them for class and to observe *The Classroom Rules*.
- Homework and projects must always be completed and be on time.
- Mobile phones:
 - (a) Mobile phones must be turned off at all times except before and after school, at morning break and at lunch.
 - (b) Phones which are being used in any way during school time (with the above exceptions) will be withheld (with their SIM cards) for up to four school days.
 - (c) The use of the camera or the recording device in the mobile phone is forbidden at all times during the school day. A student who uses the camera or recording device of a mobile phone in an inappropriate way coming to or going from school, downtown during lunchtime or while away on a school trip will be liable to detention and/or suspension from school.

3.3 Attendance & Punctuality

- Students are expected to be present on every school-day and be on time for school and all classes
- Following an absence, a note of explanation must be written in the Journal by the parent or guardian and the reason for the absence given.
- A student may only leave the school during school-hours with a note from a parent or guardian and permission from his Form Teacher, Principal, Deputy Principal or Year Head. He should sign out in the Enquiries Office when leaving the school.
- A student becoming sick during the school day must report to a school secretary who will, if deemed necessary, contact his parents or guardians.
- First Year students are not allowed downtown at lunchtime.

3.4 Uniform

- Students are expected to be in correct school uniform every school day.
- The uniform should normally be worn on all school trips.
- Our school uniform consists of :
 - ✓ Plain grey slacks (not cord or denim)
 - ✓ School jumper with crest
 - ✓ Light blue shirt
 - ✓ School tie
 - ✓ Plain black leather shoes - which should be worn coming to and going from school and during break-times

Please note that boots, hoods & caps, jewellery, piercings, badges or other insignia are not allowed. If a student is not in proper uniform, he will be unable to go to class without a letter from home in his Journal and specific permission from his Year Head.

3.5. Bullying

- Bullying is a serious breach of conduct
- All students, parents and teachers are reminded of the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.
- In particular, bullying or discrimination on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, marital status, family status, religion, traveller or other background are totally against the Christian values of our school
- A student being subjected to bullying or harassment of any kind should always report incidents to his parents and to his Form Teacher, Year Head, Principal, Deputy Principal or to any other teacher or member of the support staff.

3.6 School Environment

- Students are expected to keep the classrooms and public areas tidy, well- maintained and litter free.
- Lockers must be well-mindred during the year and kept locked.
- Students may use their lockers before and after school and at break-times but not during or between classes.
- Eating in classrooms is not allowed.
- Students must take care of their own property. Their names should be written on all copies and books

3.7 Health & Safety

- Smoking and the use of e cigarettes is forbidden on the school premises and in the vicinity of the school gate.
- Toilets should normally be used at break-times only.
- The possession, use or consumption of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs is forbidden at all times.
- For safety reasons, cycling is not allowed in the school yard.
- Chewing gum is not allowed in school.
- Students may only enter practical rooms, the library and Sports Hall with their teachers
- Students should not go to areas around the school which are *out of bounds*

4. The consequences of unacceptable behaviour

4.1 Day-to-Day School Discipline

Each teacher has authority to conduct his or her classes in an orderly and co-operative atmosphere. She or he has a professional right and duty to use normal classroom management strategies such as correcting students, allocating desks, and giving special homework. Each member of staff has a right to supervise, correct and report students as necessary in all areas of the school premises and in its vicinity.

4.2 Sanctions

In cases of misbehavior or breach of the rules, a student may be liable to sanction. Sanctions include:

- Punishment homework
- School service at lunchtime
- A note in the Journal
- Being referred to the Year Head
- Detention at lunchtime, Friday afternoon or on Saturday morning
- Parents being contacted and/or being requested to come to a meeting in the school
- In exceptional circumstances, being referred to the Principal or Deputy Principal

- Being put on daily report
- Being required to sign a special *Contract of Good Behaviour*
- Being fined - in the case of damage to property
- Suspension
- Referral to the Board of Management for a decision on expulsion

5. Who to approach for help

A student having a problem of any kind is welcome to approach any teacher but particularly his Form Teacher, Year Head, Guidance Counselor, Chaplain, the Principal or Deputy Principal at any time.

6. Policies on the following related areas are also part of this Code of Behaviour. They are available on the school website at www.naascbs.ie

- (a) Disciplinary Procedures
- (b) Procedures for Detention (to be reviewed further)
- (c) Suspensions and Expulsions
- (d) Bullying
- (e) Substance Abuse
- (f) Homework Policy
- (g) Attendance & Participation
- (h) Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

7. Role of Parents:

The school acknowledges the vital role of parents in promoting positive behaviour and seeks the support of parents in implementing the Code.

8. Origin of this Code:

This Code of Behaviour was developed following consultation with students, parents and staff and in accordance with Section 23 of the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000 and also in accordance with the publication of the National Educational Welfare Board – *Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for Schools (2008)*

9. Review of the Code:

The Code of Behavior was reviewed, updated and adopted by the Board of Management on 18/10/2018 and it will be reviewed annually.