**Code of Behaviour St. Fintan’s N.S.**

**Aims:**

1. To create a positive learning environment for all.
2. To encourage self-discipline and a good standard of behaviour.
3. To show respect for people in authority.
4. To show respect for one’s own and other people’s property.

The school wishes to acknowledge the right of each child to education in a relatively disruption free environment.

Every effort will be made by the staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school.

The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the Principal. Each teacher has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within his/her classroom while sharing a common responsibility for good order within the school premises. Pupils will be referred to the Principal for serious breaches of discipline and for repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour.

**Areas Concerned**

1. Behaviour in class
2. Behaviour in playground
3. Behaviour in school environment
4. Corridors
5. Presentation and personal appearance
6. Homework
7. Attendance at school
8. Bullying
9. **Behaviour in class**
10. Pupils must show respect at all times for teachers and fellow pupils. Behaviour such as
11. while eating.
12. All lunch remains to be brought home to be recycled/disposed of.
13. It is the responsibility of all children to keep the toilets in a respectable condition and any problems to be immediately reported.
14. **Playground**
15. Children must play in their designated yards.
16. Children must not leave the playground during breaks, this includes re-entering of school building, without the permission of the teacher.
17. All incidents should be reported immediately to supervising teacher.
18. Serious injuries should be reported to staff room immediately.
19. Rough or dangerous play is forbidden. (Fighting, kicking etc.)
20. Bullying, taunting or annoying other children are forbidden.
21. Rude, obscene or insulting language prohibited.
22. On hearing the bell the children on the Junior Yard should line up in an orderly fashion in their respective groups and only enter when told by the teacher. Children on the Senior Yard go straight to their rooms and remain seated until the class teacher returns. Teacher on yard duty will supervise senior rooms.

**3. School Environment**

Respect and sensitivity to others to be encouraged at all times. Teachers have the authority to correct any child at any time in any part of the school or during any extracurricular activity.

Pupils should address teachers and other members of staff respectfully, eg, Mr. Ormonde, Ms. Doyle, Sir, Miss.

**Mobile Phones** and other electronic devices are not permitted in school.

**4. Corridors:**

a) Children expected to move in the corridors in and orderly and quiet manner.

b) When visiting other classrooms children are expected to knock and enter and relay a message to the teacher.

**5. Presentation and personal appearance:**

a) The children must wear the school uniform at all times except on their PE days or on days when the football and hurling coaches attend the school. On these occasions the school tracksuit must be worn, i.e. plain navy sweater, white polo type shirt and plain navy tracksuit bottoms.

b) Children should always be neat and tidy.

c) Earrings which may be considered by the school authorities to be a danger to the pupil will be banned.

**6. Homework**

Homework is normally given on week nights and should always be completed. If for any reason a pupils has not completed homework, a note should be written to class teacher with an explanation.

See school policy on home work.

**7. Attendance at school:**

a) If a pupil is absent a written note should be presented to the class teacher on returning to school.

b) A pupil will not be given permission to leave the school without a note from a parent/guardian. Parents must sign the child out of the school in “Early Leavers Book” in the school office.

c) Pupils should be on time for school.

**Class Hours: -** 9.20am -2pm Junior Senior Infants

9.20am – 3pm 1st-6th classes

It is not advisable that pupils be on the school grounds before 9.10am as they cannot be adequately supervised. All children should be collected on time. All Junior and Senior Infants should be collected at 2pm.

1. **8. Bullying** cheek, defiance and insolence will not be tolerated.
2. Pupils are expected to do what they are told when told, to fulfil the learning tasks allotted to them in so far as individual ability allows, not to disrupt the class by idleness, talking out of turn or at will
3. Respect must be shown by each pupil for the property of others and classroom environment.
4. Children should respect books and equipment they are allowed to use and replace it carefully.

At lunchtime children must eat properly – sit

Bullying is not tolerated in St. Fintan’s Taghmon. We have procedures for investigating and dealing with bullying in our Anti-Bullying Policy.

**Strategies to promote positive behaviour**

The school positively reinforces good behaviour through a series of initiatives and strategies employed by the individual classroom teachers and by the Principal. These include;-

* Reward charts
* Student of the Week
* Handball passes
* Raffle Tickets
* Golden Time
* Extra Playtime
* Go Noodle
* Praise from the teacher/Principal

Communication with parents will be verbal or by letter.

In cases of gross or serious misbehaviour, parents/guardians will be invited to come to the school to discuss the problem.

For serious misbehaviour suspension will be considered.

Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher will be regarded as gross misbehaviour.

Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour the Chairperson of the BOM will be informed and the parents/guardians will be requested in writing to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson and the Principal. If the parents do not give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future the pupil may have to be suspended for a temporary period.

In the case of gross misbehaviour the BoM shall authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension pending a discussion of the matter with the parent/guardians.

**Procedure for suspending a pupil**

1. A record will be kept in the school of all instances of serious misbehaviour by pupils;
2. Parents will be invited to meet class teacher, the Principal and the Chairperson of the BoM;
3. Communications to parents/guardians regarding the suspension of a pupil should be in writing;
4. Copies of all correspondence will be retained;
5. A written statement of the terms and date of termination of a suspension will be given to parents/guardians;
6. When a period of suspension ends the pupil will be re-admitted to the class by the Principal;
7. Where a satisfactory resolution of a problem is achieved a pupil may be re-admitted to school within a suspension period at the discretion of the Chairperson of the BoM and the Principal.

A copy of this code will be made available to all parents/guardians.

**Ratified by BOM on 24/10/2017**

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**Reviewed on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signed by Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The following strategies may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour:**

1. **Restorative Practise**

St. Fintan’s approach to behaviour is based on the concept of Restorative Practise. Our Behaviour policy is focussed on the positive aspects of behaviour rather than on sanctions. Everything we do in St. Fintan’s is based on the principle of mutual respect. Restorative approaches encourage pupils to think about how their behaviour has affected others, both pupils and staff. It helps develop an ethos of inclusion, respect, accountability and taking responsibility for their actions.

When our pupils find themselves in conflict or upset we will ask them:-

* What happened?
* What were you thinking when it happened
* What do you think now?
* Who has been affected or upset by this and how?
* What needs to happen to put this right?

**We might also say to our pupils:-**

* What would you think if this happened to you
* How can we put this right
* What could you do differently next time?
* What other choice could you have made?
* How could you make sure this doesn’t happen again?

There is a hardback book for each yard with the list of questions. Unacceptable behaviour will be recorded by the teacher on duty and this will be reviewed by the principal for reoccurring patterns of behaviour.

1. Reprimand
2. Temporary separation from peers.
3. Loss of privileges
4. Detention during a break
5. Prescribing additional work
6. Referral to Principal
7. Communication with parents/guardians
8. Parents withdrawing pupils at lunchtime
9. Suspension (Temporary)

Teachers will keep a written record of all instances or serious misbehaviour.

Pupils may be asked to write their own report/reflections on the incident.

Before resorting to serious sanctions e.g. suspension, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised.