

# **MOUNTBOLUS NATIONAL SCHOOL**

## **CODE OF BEHAVIOUR**

### ***Aims of Code of Behaviour***

***This code of behaviour was drawn up by staff of Mountbolus N.S in consultation with Board of Management and Parents Association.***

The code of discipline aims to achieve three things:

- a) The efficient operation of the school and the structuring of in-class discipline so that there exists an efficient and stimulating learning environment.
- b) The maintenance of good order throughout the school and respect for the school environment.
- c) The development of self-discipline in pupils based on consideration, respect and tolerance for others.

### ***Principles of Behaviour Policy***

- ❑ If the school is to achieve a happy, secure environment in which children can develop to their full potential, it is necessary to provide a framework which promotes constructive behaviour and discourages unacceptable behaviour.
- ❑ The aim is to ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated while acknowledging the right of each child to an education in a relatively disruption free environment.
- ❑ The school code places a greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions, and the ideal is that pupils will acquire self-discipline.
- ❑ There are times however when it may be necessary to impose sanctions in order to maintain good order and to discourage offenders.
- ❑ We recognise the importance of a strong sense of community within the school and the existence of a high level of co-operation among teachers, ancillary staff, pupils, parents, the Board of Management and the Parents' Association.

### ***Respect and Courtesy***

1. All pupils are expected to treat their fellow pupils and staff with respect and courtesy at all times. The use of foul language and any form of bullying are unacceptable.
2. Pupils must respect all school property and keep the school environment clean and litter free.
3. Pupils must have all books and required materials.

4. Pupils are expected to work to the best of their ability and to present written exercises neatly.

5. **Any form of behaviour that interferes with the rights of others to learn and to feel safe is unacceptable.**

### ***School Rules***

School rules are kept to a minimum and are devised with regard for the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community. If a school is to function efficiently, it is necessary that rules and regulations are clearly stated and enforced consistently and wisely.

1. Pupils leave and enter the school building in an orderly fashion.
2. Pupils must not behave in any way which endangers themselves or others. Rough play comes into this category.
3. Any form of threatening behaviour is unacceptable.
4. Any instructions or directions given by the supervising teacher are to be complied with.
5. Pupils line up in an orderly manner at the end of breaks.
6. Pupils are not allowed to run indoors.
7. Pupils may not re-enter the school building during breaks without the express permission of a teacher.
8. If, due to inclement weather, the pupils are allowed to remain indoors, they must remain seated unless given permission to do otherwise by the supervising teacher.

### ***Rewards for Good Behaviour***

Most of the pupils are very well behaved and rewarding good behaviour is an important part of our Code of Discipline. The following strategies may be utilised to reward good behaviour.

1. Note in pupil's homework notebook to convey messages of approval from teachers.
2. A points table may be kept on a class by class basis
3. Extra privileges such as doing jobs or being shown a video.

### ***Sanctions***

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

1. Reasoning with pupil.

2. Verbal reprimand, including advice on how to improve.
3. Temporary separation from peers, friends and others.
4. Recording of incident of misbehaviour by means of a misbehaviour mark or by a loss of credits.
5. Note in homework journal to parents.
6. Detention during breaks.
7. Withdrawal of privileges.
8. Prescribing extra work.
9. Pupils guilty of **serious** misbehaviour may not be allowed to participate in school outings for their own safety and that of the other pupils.
10. Referral to Principal.

- *Although incidents of misbehaviour are recorded, the emphasis is on encouraging children to behave well and praise is given for commendable behaviour.*
- *Parents will be informed at an early stage if problems occur and not simply at the point where a crisis has arisen.*
- *At times, it is suggested by some parents that, the matters to which their attention is being drawn are of a trivial nature, and that there was no necessity to have informed them that their children were misbehaving. The response to this is that while the misbehaviour may appear to be of a trivial nature, it is the cumulative effect of such breaches of the rules which is important and not the offence itself.*

### ***Disciplinary Procedures***

#### **Stage 1**

- a) Child's name and class recorded; nature of the incident is noted.
- b) Report of incident is given to class teacher.
- c) Written exercise may be set as punishment and signed by both parents where possible.

#### **Stage 2**

A note may be sent home. This note should be signed by both parents where possible and returned to school.

### **Stage 3**

If misbehaviour continues, a note will be sent to parents requesting that they call to the school to discuss the child's behaviour. The child may also be detained during lunch break on a specified day or refused permission to play on the school playground

### **Stage 4**

#### **Suspension and Expulsion**

Before serious sanctions such as detention, suspension or expulsion are used, the normal channels of communications between school and parents will be utilised.

For gross misbehaviour or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour suspension may be considered. Parents/guardians concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child's case. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher or pupil will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour.

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 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 be suspended for a period. Prior to suspension, where possible, the Principal may review the case in consultation with teachers and other members of the school community involved, with due regard to records of previous misbehaviours, their pattern and context, sanctions and other interventions used and their outcomes and any relevant medical information. Suspension will be in accordance with the Rules for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000.

In the case of gross misbehaviour, where it is necessary to ensure that order and discipline are maintained and to secure the safety of the pupils, the Board may authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension for a period not exceeding three school days, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents/guardians.

*Expulsion may be considered in an extreme case, in accordance with the Rule for National Schools and the Education Welfare Act 2000. Before suspension or expelling a pupil, the Board shall notify the Local Welfare Education Officer in writing in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Welfare Act.*

#### **Removal of Suspension (Reinstatement)**

Following or during a period of suspension, the parent/s/ guardian/s may apply to have the pupil reinstated to the school/ The parent/s/guardian/s must give a satisfactory undertaking that a suspended pupil will behave in accordance with the school code and the principal must be satisfied that the pupil's reinstatement will not constitute a risk to the pupil's own safety or to that of the pupils or staff. The Principal will facilitate the preparation of a behaviour plan for the pupil if required and will re-admit the pupil formally to the class.

## **Expulsion**

Procedures in respect of expulsion.

A detailed investigation carried out under the direction of the principal.

A recommendation of the Board of Management by the principal.

- Consideration by the B.O.M. of the principal's recommendations and the holding of a hearing.
- B.O.M. deliberations and actions following the hearing.
- If B.O.M. is of the opinion that the student will be expelled, the Board must notify the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) in writing, of its opinion and the reasons for this opinion.
- The intention to expel a student does not take effect until 20 school days have elapsed after NEWM have received notification. Consultations arranged by the EWO.
- Confirmation of the decision to expel.

## **Appeals**

A parent may appeal a decision to expel to the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills (Education Act 1998 section 29)