



BELGROVE SENIOR GIRLS' SCHOOL CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

The Code of Behaviour of Belgrove Senior Girls' School was updated in September 2011.

Behaviour and the School Ethos:

In line with the characteristic spirit of Belgrove Senior Girls' School, we expect a high standard of behaviour from our pupils. This is achieved through the strong sense of community within the school and the high level of support and co-operation that exists among the staff and between staff, parents, Board of Management and the pupils themselves.

Aims:

Our Code of Behaviour aims to achieve the following:

- **Harmony:** Good behaviour among our pupils means that learning can take place in an atmosphere of harmony in our School, where co-operation exists between pupils, teachers and parents.
- **Respect:** In line with the ethos of our School, we inculcate in our pupils good behaviour patterns based on consideration, respect, courtesy, tolerance and forgiveness of others.
- **Trust:** We expect to be able to trust our pupils with regard to their behaviour.
- **Understanding:** Our pupils are helped to understand the need and reason for rules of behaviour – namely, to foster an environment conducive to learning and development and for their own safety and well-being and that of all in the School community.
- **Responsibility:** Our pupils are helped to gain a sense of responsibility in terms of their own behaviour. Staff, Parents and the Board of Management also have responsibility for upholding the Code of Behaviour.
- **Community Awareness:** We help our pupils to become aware of their individual importance as part of their class and as part of the whole school community. Individual good behaviour has a positive effect on that community, just as individual misbehaviour can have a negative effect on all.
- **Parental Support:** We rely on our Parents to support the school's Code of Behaviour and to help their children to uphold good standards of behaviour at school, just as at home.
- **Consistency:** We will aim to ensure that the system of rules, rewards, and sanctions are implemented in a fair and consistent manner.

Guidelines:

- Every effort is made by all members of the Teaching Staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school. This Code of Behaviour offers a framework within which techniques of motivation and encouragement are utilised by the Teachers.
- In devising the Code the school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
- As new children become familiar with the school, they are also made aware of the school's rules and procedures. The children become aware that rules are intended to ensure the safety of all in the school community and that rules and procedures help to make the school a pleasant place to be.
- Each Teacher has their own Class Rules, which guide the children towards good patterns of behaviour in their classroom interactions.
- Each Teacher also has a copy of the school's "Rules and Safety Procedures for our Pupils", with which they ensure the children are familiar. The Rules and Safety Procedures relate to behaviour in classroom, cloakrooms and bathrooms, around the school, in the yard, at home-time etc. It is expected that the new Second Classes, and other children new to the school, would also learn from the good example of more senior pupils.
- A copy of the Rules and Safety Procedures for our pupils is attached with this policy document. The Rules and Safety Procedures are quite extensive, covering as they do all aspects of school life. It is not intended therefore to give the children such a daunting document. The School Principal and all Teaching Staff help to daily reinforce its contents.

The Rules and Safety Procedures for our pupils may be summed up as follows:

- Pupils are expected to be punctual in their attendance, wear correct uniform and have all their books, copies etc. in good order.
- Pupils are expected to be well behaved and to show respect for each other, for the staff of the school and other adults, and for school property.
- Each child is expected to do her best, to be attentive and diligent in class, to present her work with care, and to co-operate with her teacher and with her classmates.
- Each child is expected to obey the rules and safety procedures when in her classroom, cloakroom and bathroom, in corridors, on stairs and elsewhere within the school and in the school yard.
- The same good behaviour is expected during tours or outings and other out-of-school activities.
- In her interaction at school, each child is expected to follow the school's motto for behaviour – **"Treat others as you like to be treated"**. Bullying, by word or action, is not tolerated. (See *"Policy on Countering Bullying Behaviour"*)

School activities and programmes of work contribute to the encouragement of good behaviour, friendship, respect and tolerance, e.g.

- The School's Social, Personal and Health Education Programme (SPHE).
- The Religion Programme
- Classroom group activities
- Circle Time
- Physical Education

Responsibilities

- Each teacher in the school has responsibility for the good behaviour of pupils within their own classroom. Teachers also have a common responsibility for the behaviour of all pupils within sight or sound of them around the school and for the correction of any instances of unacceptable behaviour.
- The overall responsibility for maintaining good order within the school rests with the Board of Management. Responsibility for discipline within the school is delegated to the Principal.
- Parents have a role to play in supporting the school's Code of Behaviour and by encouraging their children to behave well at all times.
- Each child has an individual responsibility to uphold the school's Code of Behaviour.

Rewarding Good Behaviour:

The pupils in this school are in general very well behaved and respond very well to requests for good behaviour at all times. The School Principal and Staff try to consistently and frequently acknowledge good behaviour with praise for a class, group or individual.

Within class each teacher has their own system for rewarding good behaviour.

Sanctions:

Incidents of serious misbehaviour are not common in this school. However, as in all schools, sanctions are in place in the event of inappropriate behaviour and are employed consistently. In all cases of unacceptable behaviour, it is the behaviour that is rejected, and not the child.

The following sanctions are indicated in documents ratified by the Dept. of Education & Science (DES) and the Catholic Primary School Managers' Association (CPSMA).

- a. Reasoning with the pupil
- b. Verbal Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)
- c. Withdrawal from a particular lesson
- d. Temporary separation from peers, friends or others
- e. Loss of privileges
- f. Prescribed additional work
- g. Detention during a break or after school hours
- h. Referral to Principal
- i. Communication with parents
- j. Referral to Board of management
- k. Suspension (temporary)
- l. Expulsion

Sanctions in place in our school:

In this school the following strategies prevail in dealing with incidents of inappropriate behaviour:

- Correction of the pupil – *It is the behaviour that is condemned, not the child.*
- Reasoning with the pupil
- Verbal Reprimand and advice on how behaviour could improve
- Moving a pupil's place within the classroom
- Pupil made to stand – for a short period only
- Relocation to another class
- Loss of privileges – e.g. not allowed to do 'jobs', being kept in under supervision during 'small' break, or should the need arise not being allowed on a school outing/tour
- Prescribed additional work – preferably something practical and of learning value.
- Communication with parents. – Parents should always be made aware at an early stage of problems relating to their child's behaviour. Initial contact can be made through the child's Homework Journal, or by arranging an appointment.
- Referral to Principal. – This can be at any stage when the Teacher feels it necessary to inform the School Principal of the child's misbehaviour. Incidents of serious misbehaviour should be brought to the attention of the Principal immediately.
- Letter of apology written by pupil, explaining misbehaviour and why it was wrong – signed by pupil and parent.
- Parents called to the school to discuss the child's behaviour with the Principal and Class Teacher.
- Referral to Board of Management in the case of repetitive serious inappropriate behaviours or a single incident of very serious inappropriate behaviour.

Note:

- Teachers will keep a written record of all instances of serious inappropriate behaviour as well as a record of improvements in behaviour where relevant.

- **Suspension:** Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents of the pupil 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. Suspension will be in accordance with the terms Rule 130(5) of the Rules for National School and with the Education Welfare Act. In the case of gross misbehaviour, the Board of Management shall authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents of the pupil.

- **Expulsion** will be considered in extreme cases, in accordance with Rule 130(6) of the Rules for National Schools.

Success Criteria:

- The success of this policy will be evident through observation of behaviour throughout the school.
- The success of the policy will also be seen in the level of positive feedback from teachers and parents.
- Above all the success of the policy will be seen in the level of positive feedback from our pupils.

This Code of Behaviour will be reviewed at agreed intervals.

Other relevant School Documents:

(Available on school website www.belgroveseniorgirls.ie)

- i. An Introduction to Belgrove Senior Girls' School
- ii. Rules and Safety Procedures for our School
- iii. Yard Policy
- iv. Policy on Countering Bullying Behaviour in our School
- v. School Policy on Mobile Phones
- vi. School Policy on Internet Use

A copy of this policy will be issued to all parents at the start of the school year and to parents of children who enrol during the school year.

Meán Fómhair (September) 2011

**BELGROVE SENIOR GIRLS' SCHOOL
CODE OF BEHAVIOUR**

I, _____
parent/guardian of

_____ in

Teacher's name: _____ (class) _____

**have read and agree to support my daughter in complying with the
above Code of Behaviour** for Belgrove Senior Girls' School.

Signed: Parent/Guardian _____

I, (pupil) _____

have read and agree to abide by the above Code of Behaviour for
Belgrove Senior Girls' School.

Date: _____

Please return this page only to your daughter's class teacher and keep the
Code of Behaviour in a safe place.