



**Derryooper National School Policies**

**Roll Number: 17547R**

**Patron: Most Rev. Michael Duignan, Bishop of Clonfert**

**Chairperson: Fr. Kieran O'Rourke P.P.**

**Phone: 0860483344**

**Principal: Padraig Lohan**

---

## **Code of Behaviour Policy**

### **1. Introduction**

Derryooper National School is committed to fostering a **safe, respectful, and positive learning environment** where every child can reach their full potential. The Code of Behaviour is designed to **promote positive behaviour, prevent misconduct, and outline fair procedures for managing inappropriate behaviour** in accordance with the *Education (Welfare) Act 2000* and *National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) Guidelines*.

### **2. Aims of the Code of Behaviour**

- To create a positive school atmosphere **based on mutual respect and responsibility**.
- To encourage **self-discipline and personal responsibility** among students.
- To establish **clear expectations and consequences** for behaviour.
- To promote **positive interactions and conflict resolution skills**.
- To ensure that the school's policies align with **child protection, equality, and anti-bullying legislation**.

### **3. Expected Standards of Behaviour**

All students are expected to:

- Show **respect for themselves, their peers, teachers, and all school staff**.
- Follow **school rules and class expectations**.
- Engage in **kind, inclusive, and non-disruptive behaviour**.
- **Take care of school property** and respect the learning environment.
- Follow **health and safety rules** to ensure a safe school for all.

### **4. Promoting Positive Behaviour**

- **Verbal and written praise** from teachers and staff.
- **Classroom rewards systems** (stickers, certificates, privileges).
- **Student of the Month and other recognition initiatives.**
- **Active involvement in Student Council and leadership roles.**
- **Use of Restorative Practices** to encourage students to reflect on and amend their actions.

## 5. Strategies for Addressing Misbehaviour

Misbehaviour is categorised into **three levels**:

### A. Minor Misbehaviour (Handled by Teacher)

Examples: Interrupting class, not following instructions, forgetting homework.

- Reminder of rules.
- Verbal warning.
- Time out or loss of small privilege.

### B. Serious Misbehaviour (Referred to Principal)

Examples: Persistent disruption, disrespect, use of bad language, rough play.

- Written note to parents.
- Loss of privileges (yard time, special activities).
- Meeting with parents and agreed behaviour plan.

### C. Gross Misbehaviour (May Lead to Suspension/Expulsion)

Examples: Aggressive behaviour, bullying, vandalism, repeated serious misbehaviour.

- Immediate removal from class.
- Formal meeting with parents.
- Suspension/expulsion in accordance with *NEWB Guidelines*.

## 6. Anti-Bullying & Digital Conduct

- The school has a **zero-tolerance policy for bullying** (*see Anti-Bullying Policy*).
- Cyberbullying is considered a serious offence, and inappropriate use of digital devices **inside or outside school** that affects students or staff will result in consequences.

## 7. Suspension & Expulsion Procedures

- **Suspensions** will follow the principles of **fairness, due process, and clear communication with parents.**
- Expulsion will only be considered for **persistent or severe breaches of behaviour.**
- Appeals can be made under **Section 29 of the Education Act.**

## 8. Roles & Responsibilities

- **Teachers and staff** will implement the code **fairly and consistently**.
- **Parents/Guardians** are expected to support school rules and discuss behaviour expectations at home.
- **Students** must take responsibility for their actions and respect school rules.

## 9. Policy Review & Monitoring

This Code of Behaviour will be reviewed **annually** to ensure compliance with **legislation and best practices**.

## 10. Policy Approval

This **Code of Behaviour Policy** has been prepared by the **Principal** and approved by the **Board of Management**.

**Signed:**

**Chairperson, Board of Management:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal, Derryoover National School:**



**Date:**

*19 February 2025*

---