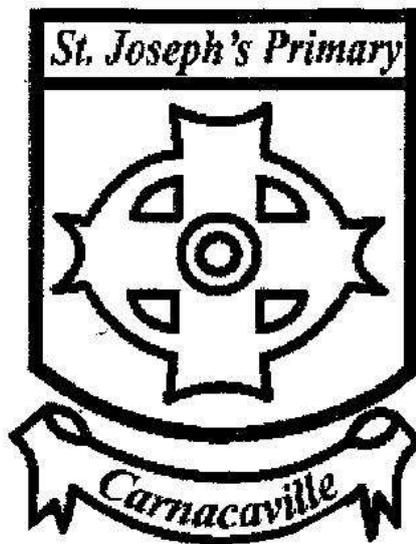


ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL CARNACAVILLE



Discipline Policy

(Linked to Pastoral Care and Positive Behaviour Policies)

INTRODUCTION:

Discipline is a system of rules for good behaviour and our rules and their application will be influenced by the Catholic ethos of our school. The maintenance of good discipline should ensure that each pupil will be able to make effective use of the teaching opportunities within the school to develop their educational, moral, social, emotional and practical abilities to the full.

PRINCIPLES:

It is the duty of the school to encourage good behaviour on the part of the pupils thus ensuring that a high standard of behaviour is maintained whilst taking appropriate measures to regulate the conduct of non-conforming pupils.

- Good relationships underpin good discipline. There should be a relaxed and caring atmosphere prevalent in which pupils are able to give their best and encouraged to fulfil their potential. Positive relationships between not only teachers and pupils but within the whole school community should be the norm.
- The Code of Behaviour i.e. school rules must be clearly understood by all the pupils. It must be consistently and fairly applied and shown to be reasonable, sensitive and effective.
- Both pupils (children) and their teachers are special.
- The home and society influence children's behaviour at school.
- The partnership between the home and the school is crucial in effecting good behaviour. The school cannot do it alone.
- Self-discipline is an essential goal of education. Children are expected to have to have responsibility for their own behaviour.

RATIONALE:

1. Discipline is an important feature of school life about which there should be a clear, shared understanding between Principal, Staff, Parents, Governors and children.
2. The Curricular aims of the school are enhanced if the school exhibits good discipline.
3. Parental and community expectations of the school are strongly influenced by pupil behaviour.
4. Children who consistently misbehave are an important stress factor for staff and their own peers.
5. The staff in St Joseph's must promote a POSITIVE approach to discipline.
6. Shared consistent whole school values can have a positive effect on how individual pupil's behave.

GOOD DISCIPLINE PRACTICES:

Good discipline means effective learning can take place.

The following strategies may be used to help achieve this goal:

- Teacher as model of the expected behaviour.
- Give regular praise and encouragement to children.
- Organise classroom space and resources carefully.
- Set tasks which enable all pupils to achieve a modicum of success.
- Plan carefully for the transition between lessons.
- Use sanctions where possible which are appropriate to the individual pupil's needs and circumstances.
- Praise disruptive pupils as soon as you see acceptable behaviour from them.
- Don't get drawn into conflict. Calm down, think and then act always leaving a way out.
- Avoid over reaction to minor instances of disruptive behaviour.
- Try and use humour to defuse awkward situations.
- Don't use sarcasm.
- Give instructions and guidance in clear understandable language.
- Be reasonable fair, positive and avoid recrimination.
- Use positive rather than negative language when communicating with children.
- Discuss the school and class rules with the pupils.

GUIDELINES FOR MAINTAINING GOOD DISCIPLINE:

1. A positive attitude and climate clearly seen between teachers, pupils, parents and all outside agencies connected with the school.
2. Interest shown for each child's well being.
3. Correction to be made by any teacher or ancillary staff member to any child's misbehaviour when required.
4. Neatness, punctuality, attendance and good manners are to be encouraged at all times.
5. Avoid confrontation if at all possible either with pupils or their parents.
6. All pupils will be treated with respect in line with the ethos of the school thus enabling each child to reach his/her true potential.
7. Pupil behaviour may result from any factors e.g. frustration with class work, attention seeking, personal or family circumstances and account should be taken of these things.
8. The teacher should be seen as a role model for pupils.
9. Each teacher has a responsibility to maintain good discipline in the classroom, elsewhere in the school and outside school when pupils are engaged in school trip/visit or games against another school.

NOTEWORTHY POINTS:

1. No child should be removed from school except with written permission or a phone call to school from parents.
2. Children should not be allowed to carry glass containers in their hands.
3. All glass containers must be carried in a plastic bucket or wastepaper basket.
4. We will continue to implement ways of rewarding good behaviour and effort i.e. Lining Up Cup; Student of the Week.

PRINCIPAL AND TEACHERS:

Teachers as well as the Principal should be aware of how important some of the following are in the maintaining good behaviour:

1. The pastoral role of each teacher is very important.
2. Any sanctions against a pupil should be made clear to the pupil and should be consistently applied.
3. It is important to praise good behaviour.
4. School rules should be understood by all pupils.
5. An appropriate curriculum serving the needs of each child is essential for good behaviour.
6. The importance of parental support cannot be over emphasised.

PARENTS:

It is essential that parents and teachers work together to maintain discipline.

Where the situation warrants it parents will be contacted and made aware of incidents of serious in-discipline involving their children.

All formal and informal channels of communication between home and school should be taken advantage of. Parents should be kept informed of their children's progress and consulted on any problems which may arise.

ANCILLARY STAFF:

All ancillary and auxiliary staff in St Joseph's are aware of the school rules and child protection procedures. Playground supervisors report incidents of in-discipline to the teachers on duty, who in turn may report it to the Principal if the situation warrants it. They are entitled to and receive the support of the Principal in dealing with disciplinary matters.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

The Board of Governors of St Joseph's Primary School are aware of all the school policies.

DEALING WITH INCIDENTS OF IN-DISCIPLINE:

1. Ensure there is a minimum of disruption e.g. pupils waiting for their teacher, changing over of classes.
2. Pettiness, selfishness, quarrelling and personal feuds from outside school must be discouraged.
3. The use of the quiet reprimand in private if necessary can be the best way to defuse a particular situation.
4. If the teacher is unsure of who actually committed an offence attempts should be made to find out quietly who the perpetrator was rather than accusing the whole group.
5. Extra work can be given for misbehaviour and this can be done at break-time providing there is adequate supervision.
6. Children whose behaviour is continually disrupting class work or playground activities should be referred to the Principal or Vice-Principal.
7. If necessary i.e. if an incident is serious enough parents shall be contacted by letter or phone and invited to meet the class teacher/Principal to discuss the effect their child's behaviour is having not only on his/her own work but on other pupils.
8. The teacher may send a child to another classroom to complete work if it is felt it is beneficial for all concerned.
9. Any pupil detained at break-time or lunch-time to complete work not finished as a result of in-discipline or as a result of a misdemeanour in the playground must be properly supervised.

Issues that would incur sanctions

1. Breaking school or class rules.
2. Deliberate misbehaviour in classroom or outside classroom.
3. Deliberate disobedience.
4. Giving cheek to teachers, supervisors or any members of staff.
5. Homework not done without good reason.
6. A breach of discipline which the teacher feels merits punishment.

Children should not be sanctioned however because of circumstances over which they have no control. Homework for example may not have been done because home circumstances prevented it.

BEHAVIOUR WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE:

1. Obeying school/class rules.
2. Respect shown towards school staff, fellow pupils and visitors to the school.
3. Respect and care should be shown towards all school property including school books.
4. We should encourage good work habits which lead to tidy work as well as well presented homework.
5. Good effort should be praised - many children try hard without achieving high academic standards.
6. Teachers should encourage and praise any action or behaviour which in the teachers opinion is good and which they feel is worthy of reward and encouragement.

SANCTIONS WHICH CAN BE USED TO DEAL WITH NEGATIVE

WORK PRACTICE AND POOR BEHAVIOUR:

1. The verbal reprimand. This can be a quiet reprimand during class time or a severe reprimand after class ends if the offence warrants it.
2. A punishment task related to the offence e.g. picking up litter if the child dropped litter.
3. Loss of privileges.
4. Repetition of work of an unacceptable standard.
5. Detention during school breaks - class work.
6. If poor behaviour persists the child should be sent to the Principal. A record of the persistent bad behaviour should be kept.
7. If deemed necessary parents can be contacted - the behaviour and reasons for it discussed and the help of the parents obtained in achieving good behaviour in future.
8. Poor behaviour on the school bus can also be punished using similar sanctions to those already described.

ENCOURAGING GOOD WORK PRACTICE AND BEHAVIOUR:

1. Verbal praise should be used.
2. Positive comments in children's workbooks.
3. Approval by other staff. Children like to show their work to other teachers and be praised and rewarded.
4. Approval by the Principal either to the individual pupil or by the Principal coming to the classroom to praise the whole class.
5. Reward systems - in St Joseph's we have 'Student of the Week' (P4 -P7) and the Lining Up Cup which is rewarded on a weekly basis (P1 - P7). Key Stage One classes use stars, smiley faces, etc.
6. Mention is made of good work, good behaviour and special achievements/awards at assembly.
7. Some teachers have prizes which they use with their own class.

SCHOOL RULES

- Always WALK in corridors and classrooms.
- Play OUTSIDE at break times except when told to remain indoors.
- Pupils must bring a note from their parents if they are wishing to stay inside for any particular reason e.g. sickness.
- Children given permission to stay indoors at break times should stay in the area where the P1 children hang their coats ie just outside Principal's Office.
- Always show respect for others and avoid rough play, quarrels and bad language.
- Bicycles, skateboards and roller skates are too dangerous and must not be brought to school. Other toys deemed dangerous may be banned at the discretion of the staff.
- Pupils should keep quiet in the corridors and toilets.
- All pupils should be polite particularly to visitors. They should show respect towards and obey their teachers at all times.
- Pupils should bring a note to school explaining an absence or why they may wish to leave school early. NOBODY is allowed to leave school early without written permission and an adult should collect them.
- Pupils should show respect for school property at all times. They should take a pride in the school environment and avoid putting graffiti on walls or litter on the school grounds.

LISTEN to your teachers and you will enjoy your time in our school.