

Craggagh National School

Code of Behaviour

2012

Craggagh National School

Balla, Castlebar, Co Mayo.

Tel: 094 9365177 Email: Principal@CraggaghNS.ie

Code of Behaviour

Introduction:

A fair and efficient Code of Discipline is an essential part of the proper organisation of a school. Such a code provides the school children with a safe and happy environment and enables effective learning to take place.

Principles:

- The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to tolerate these differences.
- It is agreed that a high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school and a high level of co-operation among staff and between staff, parents, pupils and Board of Management.
- Every effort will be made to ensure that the Code of Discipline is implemented in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner.

Aims:

- To create an ordered and orderly environment in which pupils can, through developing self-discipline, feel secure and make progress in all aspects of their development.
- To establish and maintain high standards of behaviour and discipline.

Craggagh National School

Balla, Castlebar, Co Mayo.

Tel: 094 9365177 Email: Principal@CraggaghNS.ie

The Rules of the School

Whenever groups of people come together, as a family, in a school, at sport, or at work, rules have to be drawn up and adhered to for the good of all. This is especially true of school where young characters are being nurtured and developed. The rules are being kept to a minimum and are positively stated in terms of what the pupils should do.

Our Code of Behaviour is based on the promotion and positive affirmation of good behaviour, which is built on respect; respect for ourselves, for others and for our school.

We have established three **Core Rules**:

1. I will respect myself
2. I will respect others
3. I will respect my school

These Core Rules will be visible throughout the school.

General Rules of the School:

1. Obey the orders and instructions of the teaching staff.
2. Treat their teachers and fellow pupils with respect, kindness and fairness, both at work in the classroom and at play in the school yard/playground.
3. Refrain from bullying and using unacceptable language.
4. Respect school property and also the property of the teachers and fellow pupils.
5. Do their school exercises and homework carefully and conscientiously.
6. Provide the teacher with either an online absent note (<http://bit.ly/wlojyK>), an email or a written note from their parents stating the nature of the absence when (a) they are absent from school (b) they are late for school (c) they wish to leave school early (d) their homework is not done.

Craggagh National School
Balla, Castlebar, Co Mayo.

Tel: 094 9365177 *Email:* Principal@CraggaghNS.ie

7. Obey the school safety code.
8. Walk in single file and hold the handrail when using the stairs.
9. Remain on school ground unless permission to leave has been granted by a teacher.
10. Refrain from climbing e.g. walls, basketball uprights etc.

Rules for arriving to and departing school grounds.

Morning

1. Children will proceed directly to their classroom.

2pm

2. Infants who go home at 2pm are to be collected from the school door.

3pm

3. No child is to leave the school grounds (i.e. through either pedestrian gate) unless accompanied by a parent/guardian/other approved adult. Parents are asked to collect children at the gate and proceed directly to cars.
4. Children will only be allowed to leave school grounds unaccompanied when written notification has been received by the school.

Exceptional circumstances (e.g. child leaving school during the day for dental appointment)

5. Children must be collected from their classroom door.

Craggagh National School

Balla, Castlebar, Co Mayo.

Tel: 094 9365177 Email: Principal@CraggaghNS.ie

Implementation of the Rules

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.

Every effort will be made by all members of the teaching staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school. The teaching staff recognise the need to praise and reward good behaviour and also the need to have sanctions in place to deal with misbehaviour.

The school places greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions in the belief that this will, in the long run, give the best results. All instances of misbehaviour are checked immediately.

Disciplinary Strategies and Steps

Praise and Rewards

Good behaviour will be rewarded by means of any one of the following:

- A quiet word of praise or gesture to show approval
- A positive comment in a pupils' exercise book
- A visit to the Principal for commendation
- A word of praise in front of a group/class
- A system of stars/prizes
- *Delegating some special responsibility or privilege*
- A mention to parents-oral or written communication.

Sanctions

Problems of conduct are classified by two criteria, seriousness and frequency. The sanction imposed will be as far as possible, appropriate to the misbehaviour.

Craggagh National School
Balla, Castlebar, Co Mayo.

Tel: 094 9365177 *Email:* Principal@CraggaghNS.ie

In imposing a sanction the pupil is made aware that it is the misbehaviour that is unacceptable and not the child.

Disapproval of the misbehaviour may be dealt with as follows:

(The nature of the misbehaviour will determine the strategy)

- Reasoning with pupil
- Verbal reprimand (pupil is officially warned to stop offending/advice given on how to improve)
- Temporary separation from peers
- Loss of privileges
- Prescribing additional work
- Communication with parents/guardians, meetings with teacher/principal
- Referral to principal
- Suspension (temporary)
- Expulsion

Craggagh National School
Balla, Castlebar, Co Mayo.

Tel: 094 9365177 *Email:* Principal@CraggaghNS.ie

Procedures

The degree of misdemeanour i.e. minor, serious or gross, will be judged by the teachers and/or principal based on a common sense approach with regard to the gravity/frequency of such misdemeanours.

The Sanctions imposed will be age appropriate and will also take into account the child's emotional state e.g. has the child behavioural problems or is he/she suffering trauma?

Examples of Minor Misdemeanours:

- Interrupting class work
- Distracting others
- Talking when silence is expected
- Lack of co-operation in class e.g. carelessness in class work/homework
- Not responding to the school bell in a timely manner
- Being inattentive in class
- Not completing homework without good reason
- Being discourteous/unmannerly
- Running in school building
- Leaving litter around school
- Being unfair at play

Examples of Serious Misdemeanours:

- Persistent less serious misdemeanour
- Constantly disruptive in class
- Serious dissent/disobedience
- Being discourteous, unmannerly or answering back
- Stealing – intentional taking of items

Craggagh National School
Balla, Castlebar, Co Mayo.

Tel: 094 9365177 **Email:** Principal@CraggaghNS.ie

- Deliberately injuring or hurting another pupil or staff member
- Bullying
- Endangering self or others
- Use unacceptable language or obscene gestures
- Damaging school or others' property
- Bringing dangerous materials to school
- Using a mobile phone during school hours (without permission)

It is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list. Others types of misdemeanours shall also incur sanctions.

Craggagh National School
Balla, Castlebar, Co Mayo.

Tel: 094 9365177 *Email:* Principal@CraggaghNS.ie

Communication between Parents and Teachers

The school provides a welcoming atmosphere towards parents. Parents who are concerned about their child and wish to speak to a teacher are requested to make a prior appointment where possible. Should an issue arise with a child in a classroom other than the Principal's, parents are encouraged to approach the relevant class teacher first.

Channels of Communication:

- Note on homework diary
- Verbal meeting – formal or informal
- Letter
- Telephone call

Consultation, Ratification and Review

Before ratification, a draft of this policy will be made available to parents on the school website. A hard copy will be made available upon request. Parents' comments, suggestions and observations are welcome.

This Policy was ratified by the Board of Management on the 23rd of October 2012.