



## RATHDOWN SCHOOL

# Junior School Code of Conduct

## Aims

- a. The aim is 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.
- b. The aim is for every member of staff to make every effort to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in the school and to use positive techniques and appropriate sanctions.

## Principles

**The school recognises a variety of differences that exist between children, and the need to respect these differences.**

- a. 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 and pupils.
- b. Every effort will be made to ensure that the code of conduct is implemented in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner.

# Junior School Code of Discipline

## Strategies

### 1. Praise may be given by means of any of the following:

- A word or gesture to show approval.
- A comment in the copybook or homework journal.
- A visit to the Principal for commendation.
- A word of praise in front of the class.
- A system of merit/credit marks.
- Delegating a special responsibility or privilege.
- A mention to the parent, either verbal or written.
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### 2. Disapproval of unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with as follows:

- Reasoning with the pupil.
- Reprimand, including advice on how to improve.
- Prescribing extra work.
- Communication with parents.
- Temporary separation from peers and/or loss of privileges.
- Referral to the Principal.
- Written work in form of apology.
- Suspension/expulsion ( in accordance with Rule 130 of the Rules for National Schools as amended by circular 7/88).

## Procedures

The degree of misdemeanours i.e. minor, serious, 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, as follows:

### Minor Misdemeanours

#### Examples

Interrupting class work / Arriving late for school / Running in the school building / Talking in class line / Leaving seat without permission / Not placing litter in bins / Not wearing correct uniform / Being discourteous or unmannerly / Not completing homework without good reason / Not having homework journal signed by parent / Endangering fellow pupils in the yard at breaktime by inappropriate behaviour.

#### Examples of steps to be taken by the School

Pupil to write an account of what happened or an apology, to be signed by a parent.

- Temporary separation for pupil from peers.
- Parents to be notified by note in homework journal.
- Pupil to be sent to another teacher/class.
- Pupil to be excluded from class activity.
- Class teacher to meet with parents.
- Pupil to be sent to Principal.
- Principal to meet with parents.

### Serious Misdemeanours

#### Examples

Constantly disruptive in class / Telling lies / Stealing / Damaging other pupil's property / Bullying / Back answering a teacher / Leaving school premises without permission / Not working to the full potential / Using unacceptable language / Deliberately hurting a fellow pupil / Damaging school property (eg putting toilet rolls down the toilet, scribbling on walls etc.)

#### Examples of steps to be taken by the School

- Pupil to be sent to the Principal.
- Principal to send note to the parents.
- Principal to meet with the parents.

### Gross Misdemeanours

#### Examples

Setting fire to school property / Deliberately leaving taps running / Messing with fire alarms and fire safety equipment / Aggressive threatening behaviour towards a teacher or pupil.

#### Examples of steps to be taken by the School

Principal to sanction immediate suspension pending discussion with parents.

Expulsion from Rathdown School is in accordance with Rule 130 (6) i.e. *“no pupil can be struck off the roll for breaches of discipline without prior consent of patron and until alternative arrangements are made for enrolment of pupil at another suitable school in the locality”*.