



## MUCKALEE NS

### CODE OF DISCIPLINE

Each Board of Management has been instructed by the Minister for Education to draw up a Code of Behaviour and Discipline and it is hoped that the following document will meet the particular needs of the above school.

The purpose of this Code of Discipline is to help create an educational environment where the children may develop socially, morally and intellectually in harmony with each other and with their teachers. In order to help them to appreciate the importance of order, self discipline, mutual respect and safety in their school lives, the following set of simple have been drawn up and will be explained to the children:

1. Children must show respect to staff, fellow pupils and school visitors at all times. Rough play, bullying, jeering and foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.
2. The children will show pride in their school by respecting school property and that of their school mates. Chewing gum is prohibited.
3. Children must play only in designated areas and may not leave the premises during school hours without permission.
4. Pupils must be truthful and honest in word and deed.
5. Pupils will enter and leave the school in an orderly manner. Climbing trees, perimeter walls etc is not allowed.
6. Children are expected to keep their persons and property neat and tidy. School uniform must be worn for school and school-related activities.
7. Pupils must be mindful of the safety of others at work and play. The throwing of missiles - stones, sticks, pencils etc is forbidden.
8. In their own interests and that of their fellow pupils, children will pay attention in class, and try their best at homework and class work.

The following strategies will be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour;- Reasoning, reprimand, bad marks, additional work, separation from peers, loss of privileges, detention, communication with Principal and/or Parents. Written records of serious misbehaviour will be kept by the teachers.

In the case of repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairman of the Board of Management will be informed. Parents of the offending child will be requested to visit the school to meet the Chairman and Principal. If the Parents cannot give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future, temporary suspension under the terms of Rule 130 may have to be considered. In extreme cases, the pupil may have to be expelled under the terms of Rule 130.

# St. Brendan's N.S.



As stated above, the children will be acquainted with the above rules and the reasons for them. They will appreciate that they are based on common sense, mutual respect and safety. It is appreciated that good school discipline is primarily based on good home-school relations and that a high level of co-operation between pupils, teachers and parents will ensure a disruption free and happy atmosphere in the school. We are fortunate in Muckalee that such co-operation has always obtained.

## Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy

St. Brendan's N.S. aims to ensure that children are safe and feel safe from bullying, harassment and discrimination. This school is committed to teaching children the knowledge and skills to be able to use ICT effectively, safely and responsibly.

### WHAT IS CYBER-BULLYING?

There are many types of cyber-bullying. The more common types are:

- ⌚ Text messages – can be threatening or cause discomfort. Also included here is
- ⌚ 'Bluejacking' (the sending of anonymous text messages over short distances using
- ⌚ bluetooth wireless technology)
- ⌚ Picture/video-clips via mobile phone cameras – images sent to others to make the victim feel threatened or embarrassed
- ⌚ Mobile phone calls – silent calls, abusive messages or stealing the victim's phone and using it to harass others, to make them believe the victim is responsible
- ⌚ Emails – threatening or bullying emails, often sent using a pseudonym or somebody else's name
- ⌚ Chat room bullying – menacing or upsetting responses to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room
- ⌚ Instant messaging (IM) – unpleasant messages sent while children conduct real-time conversations online using MSM (Microsoft Messenger), Yahoo Chat or similar tools
- ⌚ Bullying via websites – use of defamatory blogs (web logs), personal websites and online personal 'own web space' sites such as You Tube, Facebook, Ask.fm, Bebo (which works by signing on in one's school, therefore making it easy to find a victim) and Myspace – although there are others.

### Aims of Policy:

To ensure that pupils, staff and parents understand what cyber bullying is and how it can be combated  
To ensure that practices and procedures are agreed to prevent incidents of cyber bullying  
To ensure that reported incidents of cyber bullying are dealt with effectively and quickly.

### Understanding Cyber bullying:

Cyber bullying is the use of ICT (usually a mobile phone and or the internet) to abuse another person  
It can take place anywhere and involve many people  
Anybody can be targeted including pupils and school staff  
It can include threats, intimidation, harassment, cyber-stalking, vilification, defamation, exclusion, peer rejection, impersonation, unauthorized publication of private information or images etc.



## Procedures to prevent Cyber bullying:

- Ⓢ Staff, pupils, parents and Board of Management (BoM) to be made aware of issues surrounding cyber bullying
- Ⓢ Pupils and parents will be urged to report all incidents of cyber bullying to the school
- Ⓢ Staff CPD (Continuous Professional Development) will assist in learning about current technologies
- Ⓢ Pupils will learn about cyber bullying through Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), assemblies, friendship week activities and other curriculum projects
- Ⓢ Pupils will sign an Acceptable Use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) contract
- Ⓢ Parents will be provided with information and advice on how to combat cyber bullying
- Ⓢ Parents will be expected to sign an Acceptable Use of ICT contract prior to enrolment and to discuss its meaning with their children
- Ⓢ Pupils, parents and staff will be involved in reviewing and revising this policy and school procedure
- Ⓢ All reports of cyber bullying will be investigated, recorded, stored in the Principal's office and monitored regularly
- Ⓢ The school will engage a speaker to facilitate a workshop on cyber bullying for 5th and 6th classes annually. Classes 1st to 6th will participate in the 'Bullying in a Cyber World' programme.
- Ⓢ Procedures in our school Anti-bullying Policy shall apply
- Ⓢ The police will be contacted in cases of actual or suspected illegal content
- Ⓢ This policy will be reviewed annually.

## Information for Pupils

If you're being bullied by phone or the Internet:

- Ⓢ Remember, bullying is never your fault. It can be stopped and it can usually be traced.
- Ⓢ Don't ignore the bullying. Tell someone you trust, such as a teacher or parent or call an advice line.
- Ⓢ Try to keep calm. If you are frightened, try to show it as little as possible. Don't get angry, it will only make the person bullying you more likely to continue.
- Ⓢ Don't give out your personal details online – if you're in a chat room, watch what you say about where you live, the school you go to, your email address etc. All these things can help someone who wants to harm you to build up a picture about you.
- Ⓢ Keep and save any bullying emails, text messages or images. Then you can show them to a parent or teacher as evidence.
- Ⓢ If you can, make a note of the time and date bullying messages or images were sent, and note any details about the sender
- Ⓢ There's plenty of online advice on how to react to cyber bullying. For example, [ie.reachout.com](http://ie.reachout.com) and [www.wiredsafety.org](http://www.wiredsafety.org) have some useful tips.

### Text/video messaging

You can easily stop receiving text messages for a while by turning-off incoming messages for a couple of days. This might stop the person texting you by making them believe you've changed your phone number. If the bullying persists, you can change your phone number. Ask your mobile service provider about this. Don't reply to abusive or worrying text or video messages. Your mobile service provider will have a number for you to ring or text to report phone bullying. Visit their website for details.

# St. Brendan's N.S.



Don't delete messages from cyber bullies. You don't have to read them, but you should keep them as evidence.

## Useful Websites

[www.spunout.ie](http://www.spunout.ie)

[www.childnet.int.org](http://www.childnet.int.org)

[www.antibullying.net](http://www.antibullying.net)

[www.kidsmart.org.uk/beingsmart](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/beingsmart)

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bullying](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bullying)

[www.childline.ie/index.php/support/bullying/1395](http://www.childline.ie/index.php/support/bullying/1395)

[www.chatdanger.com](http://www.chatdanger.com)

<http://ie.reachout.com>

[www.kidpower.org](http://www.kidpower.org)

[www.sticksandstones.ie](http://www.sticksandstones.ie)

[www.abc.tcd.ie](http://www.abc.tcd.ie)

Compiled in consultation with teachers, SNAs, pupils (Student Council) parents/guardians (email survey) and wider community (parish newsletter) in