**Kilcommon National School**

**Tinahely,**

**Co. Wicklow**

**Code of Behaviour and Discipline – March 2017**

1. In devising the code, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of Kilcommon National School. The aim is to ensure that the individuality of each child is accommodated while acknowledging the right of each child to education in a relatively disruption-free environment.
2. Every effort will be made by all members of staff to adopt a positive approach to the question of behaviour in Kilcommon National School. The code offers a framework within which positive techniques of motivation and encouragement are utilised by the teachers.

1. KNS places greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions, in the belief that this will, in the long run, give the best results.
2. KNS recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
3. 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, pupils and parents.
4. The rules are being kept to a minimum and are positively stated in terms of what pupils should do, rather than focus on the negative.
5. All efforts will be made to match the curriculum to the abilities, aptitudes and interests of each pupil. This should help to reduce boredom, lack of interest or lack of progress.
6. 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. A pupil will be referred to the Principal for serious breaches of discipline and for repeated incidents of minor misbehaviour.
7. The following strategies may be used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour:

(a) Reasoning with the pupil

(b) Reprimand (including advice on how to improve)

(c) Temporary separation from peers, friends or others

(d) Loss of privileges

(e) Detention during a break

(f) Giving appropriate task/consequence relevant to the unacceptable behaviour

(g) Referral to Principal

(h) Communication with parents

(i) Suspension (temporary)

10 Teachers will keep a written record using the ‘Pink Book’ or Aladdin of all instances of serious misbehaviour/repeated minor incidents. Teachers will acknowledge improvements in the behaviour of pupils. The normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised, before resorting to serious sanctions, e.g., suspension. Parents will be involved at an early stage, rather than as a last resort.

11. Communication with parents will be verbal or by letter, depending on circumstances. The parents concerned will be invited to come to the school to discuss their child’s case. For gross misbehaviour, or repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, suspension will be considered. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour, depending on circumstances.

Where there are repeated instances of serious misbehaviour, the Chairperson of the Board of Management will be informed and the parents will be requested in writing to attend at the school to meet the Chairperson and the Principal. If the parents do not give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future, the pupil may have to be suspended for a temporary period. Suspension will be in accordance with the terms of Rule 130(5) of the Rules for National Schools.

In the case of gross misbehaviour, the Board shall authorise the Chairperson or Principal to sanction an immediate suspension, pending a discussion of the matter with the parents.

Expulsion maybe considered in an extreme case, in accordance with Rule 130(6).

12. Every effort will be made to have an emotionally disturbed child referred for psychological assessment without delay. Help will be sought, also, from support services within the wider community, e.g., Community Care services provided by Health Boards.

13. The Board of Management will notify and make this policy available to all parents via the school website and welcome any relevant feedback. Hard copies will be made available on request.

14. All members of the teaching staff have been involved in planning the code.

15. KNS has an open door policy where communication between staff and parents is encouraged.

16. The BOM, the staff, pupils and parents together strive to create a positive, happy atmosphere within Kilcommon National School at all times.

17. The code will be reviewed at regularly and as deemed necessary.

This policy was reviewed by staff on 20/03/2017

This policy was ratified by the BOM on 23/03/2017

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Chairperson

Avril Young