

Code of Behaviour and Discipline for the Gaiety School of Acting

2nd Edition September 2014

1. In devising the Code, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of this school. The aim is to ensure that the creativity and 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 the school. The Code offers a framework within which positive techniques of motivation and encouragement are utilised by the teachers.
3. The school places greater emphasis on rewards than on sanctions, in the belief that this will, in the long run, give the best results.
4. The school recognises the variety of differences that exist between children and the need to accommodate these differences.
5. It is agreed that a high standard of behaviour requires a strong sense of community within the school and a high level of cooperation among staff and between staff, students and parents.
6. The rules are being kept to a minimum and are positively stated in terms of what pupils should do.
7. The overall responsibility for discipline within the school rests with the General Manager. Each tutor has responsibility for the maintenance of discipline within his/her class, while sharing a common responsibility for good order within the school premises.
8. 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;
 - (g) referral to administrator;
 - (h) communication with parents;
 - (i) suspension (temporary)
 - (j) expulsion (permanent).
9. Teachers will keep a written record of all instances of serious misbehaviour as well as a record of improvements in the behaviour of disruptive pupils. Before resorting to serious sanctions, eg, suspension, the normal channels of communication between school and parents will be utilised. Parents will be involved at an early stage, rather than as a last resort.
10. 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, expulsion will be considered. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards a teacher will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour, depending on circumstances. If the parents do not give an undertaking that the pupil will behave in an acceptable manner in the future, the pupil may be expelled from the school.
11. In the belief that the most effective schools tend to be those with the best relationship with parents, every effort will be made by the school to ensure that parents are kept well informed, that the school provides a welcoming atmosphere towards parents and that parents are not only told when their children are in trouble but when they have behaved particularly well.
14. The code will be reviewed at agreed intervals.