



New Ross Educate Together National School

Barrett's Park, New Ross, Co. Wexford

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Roll no 20458m

Code of Conduct for Parents Guardians and Visitors

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School Details:

Name: New Ross Educate Together National School
Address: Barrett's Park, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
Telephone: 0539105070
Email: office@newrossetns.ie
Roll Number: 20458m
Principal: Elaine French

The school day starts at 8.30 and finishes at 1.10 for infant classes and 2.10 for all other classes.

Rationale:

At New Ross Educate Together National School we are very proud and fortunate to have a very dedicated and supportive school community. At our school the staff, board of management, parents and guardians all recognise that the education of our children is a partnership between us.

Parents and guardians play an important role in promoting children's happiness and success in school and their expectations and behaviour have a significant bearing on children's attitude and behaviour while a student in New Ross Educate Together National School.

We expect our school community to respect our school ethos and set a good example with their own behaviour both on school premises and when accompanying classes on school visits.

In addition we also expect our parents, guardians and visitors to keep our children safe by adhering to the school's request to park safely outside the school gates during morning and afternoon collections.

As a partnership we are all aware of the importance of good working relationships and all recognise the importance of these relationships to equip our children with the necessary skills for their education. For these reasons we will continue to welcome and encourage parents and guardians to participate fully in the life of our school.

Aim of the Policy:

The purpose of this code of conduct is to provide the expectations around the conduct of all parents, guardians and visitors connected to our school.

We are committed to resolving difficulties in a constructive manner, through an open and positive dialogue. However we understand that everyday misunderstandings can cause frustrations and have a negative impact on our relationships. Where issues arise or misconceptions take place, please contact your child's teacher who will be available to meet with you and go through the issue and hopefully resolve it. Where issues remain unresolved, please follow the school's complaints procedure. This is available on the school website or a copy can be requested from the school office.

This code aims to clarify the types of behaviour that will not be tolerated and seeks parental agreement to these expectations.

The code of conduct also sets out the actions the school can take should this code be ignored or where breaches occur.

Behaviour that will not be tolerated:

- Disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the schools normal operation or activities anywhere on the school premises.
- Any inappropriate behaviour on the school premises.
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Threatening in any way, a member of staff, visitor, fellow parent/guardian or child.
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Sending abusive or threatening emails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communications (including social media) to anyone within the school community.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the pupils/parents/staff/board of management at the school on Facebook or other sites
- The use of physical, verbal or written aggression towards another adult or child. This includes physical punishment of your own child on school premises.
- Approaching someone else's child in order to discuss or chastise them because of the actions of this child towards their own child. (Such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences)

- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises. (Alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events)
- Dogs being brought on to the school premises. (other than sanctioned guide dogs)

Should any of the above occur on school premises or in connection with school the school may feel it is necessary to take action by contacting the appropriate authorities or consider banning the offending adult from entering the school premises.

Thank you for abiding by this code in our school. Together we create a positive and uplifting environment not only for the children but also all who work and visit our school.

It is important for parents and guardians to make sure any persons collecting their children are aware of this policy.

What happens if someone ignores or breaks the code? :

In the event of any parent/guardian or visitor of the school breaking, this code then proportionate actions will be taken as follows:

In cases where the unacceptable behaviour is considered to be a serious and potentially criminal matter, the concerns will in the first instance be referred to the Police.

This will include any or all cases of threats or violence and actual violence to any child, staff or member of the Board of Management in the school.

This will also include anything that could be seen as a sign of harassment of any member of the school community, such as any form of insulting social media post or any form of social media cyber bullying. In cases where evidence suggests that behaviour would be tantamount to libel or slander, then the school will refer the matter to the Gardaí for further action.

In cases where the code of conduct has been broken but the breach was not libellous, slanderous or criminal matter, then the school will send out a formal letter to the parent/guardian with an invite to a meeting.

If the parent/guardian refuses to attend the meeting then the school will write to the parent/guardian and ask them to stop the behaviour causing the concern and warn that if they do not they may be banned from the school premises.

If after this behaviour continues, the parent/guardian will again be written to and informed that a ban is now in place.

Note:

(1) A ban from the school can be introduced without having to go through all the steps offered above in more serious cases.

(2) Site bans will normally be limited in the first instance i.e. for a set period of time.

Issues of conduct with the use of Social Media:

Many people take part in online activities and social media. It's fun, interesting and keeps us connected.

The school has a Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages which allows parents and the general public to receive and respond to messages about school events and things that may be of interest. We encourage you to positively participate if you wish.

Within these spaces however we ask that you use common sense when discussing school life online.

'Think before you post' We ask that social media, whether public or private, should not be used to fuel campaigns and voice complaints against the school, school staff, parents or children.

We take very seriously inappropriate use of social media by a parent to publicly humiliate or criticise another parent, member of staff or child.

If parents have any concerns about their child in relation to the school as we have said above they should:

1. Initially contact the class teacher
2. If the concern remains they should contact the principal.
3. If still unresolved, the school board of management through the complaints procedure

They should not use social media as a medium to air any concerns or grievances.

Online activity which we consider inappropriate:

- Identifying or posting images/videos of children in line with the schools filming and photography policy.

- Abusive or personal comments about staff, board of management, children or other parents
- Bringing the school into disrepute
- Posting defamatory or libellous comments
- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about staff or children
- Using social media to publicly challenge school policies or discuss issues about individual children or members of staff
- Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language
- Breaching school security procedures

At our school we take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously and will deal with any reported incidents appropriately in line with the actions outlined above.

Ratification and Review:

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 20th June 2018. It will be communicated to all staff and will be made available to parents/guardians. It is scheduled for review by the Board of Management in May 2020.

Signed: _____ Date: 20th June 2018
Chairperson BOM

Signed _____ Date 20th June 2018
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management