



St Joseph's Adolescent School
Roll No. 20153N

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

General:

St. Joseph's Adolescent School is a special school under the patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin and operating within a specialist psychiatric service in St. Vincent's Hospital, Fairview.

St. Joseph's is recognized as a special school, which functions to provide a therapeutic and supportive milieu within the school setting for students experiencing mental health difficulties.

St. Joseph's is a co-educational special school with a broad curriculum, which aims to cater for the diverse needs, abilities and aptitudes of its students aged 13 to 18 years of age.

Introduction:

St. Joseph's believes that its Behaviour Policy should be framed in such a way as to encourage co-operation, interdependence and a strong sense of community among students, teachers, multi-disciplinary team (MDT) members, parents/guardians/carers and members of the Board of Management.

The rationale/aims of this policy are:

- a) The fostering of self-discipline in students, their training in positive behaviour patterns which are based on consideration, respect and tolerance towards others.
- b) The efficient operation of the school in a manner, which enables the school's overall aims to be realized.
- c) The maintenance of good order throughout the school, respect for each individual and for the school environment.
- d) The compliance with legislation under the terms of the Education Act 1998, and the Education (Welfare) Act 2000.

Roles and Responsibilities of Teachers and Management

Teachers and MDT will endeavour to maintain a consistent and fair approach to supporting positive behaviour by:

- 1) Fostering mutually respectful relationships between students, parents / guardians / careers and all members of the MDT.
- 2) Promoting positive attitudes towards learning within the school and encouraging the development of higher self-esteem.
- 3) Providing lively and stimulating teaching methods and lessons differentiated to meet students' needs and abilities.
- 4) Holding high expectations for students to be responsible in their work and conduct.
- 5) Creating an attractive environment for learning where effort is more important than results and where mistakes are allowed to be made.
- 6) Acknowledging appropriate classroom behaviour with praise and recognition.

Roles and Responsibilities of Parents / Guardians / Carers

Parents / Guardians / Carers / Teachers and other members of the MDT are the significant adults in the lives of young people at school. Parents / Guardians / Carers will encourage positive student behaviour by:

- 1) Fostering mutually respectful relationships between students, parents / guardians / carers and all members of the MDT.
- 2) Supporting the school in its high expectations of positive behaviour and standards of effort and achievement.
- 3) Encouraging and supporting their children's Individual Education Plan (IEP) and all school policies.
- 4) Informing the school of concerns, which may affect the child's progress.

Roles and Responsibilities of Student

The students are at the centre of the school community. The students are responsible for their own behaviour and will engage in positive behaviour by:

- 1) Respecting others as they wish to be respected.

9.

- 2) Creating a learning atmosphere in the classroom.
- 3) Working to obtain the best education for themselves and others.
- 4) Making their best effort and being helpful to other students.
- 5) Always acting in a safe manner.
- 6) Showing respect for other peoples' property and the school environment.
- 7) Raising issues, with an appropriate person, which concern them, whether at home or in school.
- 8) Developing the skills of self-regulation, to assess/monitor/take control of their own behaviour/anger management strategies.
- 9) Having a voice in the development of their IEP and in all matters affecting their education and well-being while in school.

Rewards, Rules and Sanctions

1) REWARDS

It is recognised that it is important to reward students who make a positive contribution in the classroom and to school life in general.

2) RULES

The rules of the school will be kept to a minimum and will be reviewed annually. Respect for persons and property, the need for order and the promotion of positive behaviour are the underlying principles of our rules. All students must agree to abide by the school rules. There is a format for students to have an input in the development and review of school rules.

School Rules:

- 1) Everyone's right to work and learn in peace should be respected.
- 2) Everyone should be treated with respect at all times.
- 3) We should respect our school and all materials in it, including the property of others.
- 4) We should keep our classrooms clean and safe. Students must protect our school from litter, graffiti etc. so that the school will be a pleasant place for all.
- 5) Students are asked to dress neatly and appropriately at all times.

9.

- 6) In the interests of the safety of the student, a student may not leave the school premises without the permission of staff.
- 7) Students are expected to attend school punctually and regularly during the school year. Students must be present for assembly at the appropriate time each morning. If a student is absent from, or late for school a parent / guardian shall contact the school or nurse's office to explain.
- 8) Students must adhere to all Health & Safety rules as outlined in the Health & Safety Policy.
- 9) Bullying is unacceptable (as outlined in the *Anti-Bullying Policy*).
- 10) Mobile phones are to be handed to staff for safe keeping in the office during the day and are returned on leaving.
- 11) Confidentiality: Students are discouraged from exchanging personal details. Confidentiality should be maintained at all times in relation to personal matters.

3) SANCTIONS - Strategies to deal with unacceptable Behaviour

Sanctions are intended to correct misbehaviour rather than to punish students. The MDT will discuss sanctions as and when necessary. Parents and student will have an input in these discussions. All incidents of unacceptable behaviour will be recorded.

A student in continuous breach of the Behaviour Policy may be put on a behaviour contract.

Some consequences may include:

- Extra homework
- Withdrawal from privileges i.e. iPad, tennis, outing
- Time out and reflection
- Contact with parents / guardians

A student with a continuous breach of the Code of Behaviour, may be put on a behaviour contract, which must be signed by the pupil and his / her parents / guardians.

Policy reviewed: March 2018

Ratified by Board of Management:

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Chairperson Board of Management

Review Date: _____