



# **CODE OF BEHAVIOUR**

***ST JOHN'S N.S.  
TEMPLE STREET  
SLIGO.***

**[www.stjohnssligo.com](http://www.stjohnssligo.com)**



*'In St. John's N.S., we promote mutual respect  
and develop co-operation where each pupil can  
develop his/her own unique talents.'*



## Foreword

We, the staff of this school, wish to set out in this booklet the aims and regulations of the school, with the purpose of establishing a partnership between parents and teacher for the benefit of the children.

Our Code of Behaviour aims to establish a structured, positive environment in which learning is enhanced.

- *The Board of Management*

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## Historical Note

St. John's School opened in 1944. It was run by the Marist Brothers until September 2001 before the first all lay staff took over.

The school introduced Junior/Senior Infant and first classes in September 2003. St. John's became a Co-educational school in September 2005 and also provides Speech and Language and Special classes.

**SCOIL NÁISIUNTA EOIN NAOFA**  
***ST. JOHN'S N.S.***  
**TEMPLE STREET, SLIGO.**

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## Introduction

As St. John's School is a Catholic school, we seek to develop a sense of community that attempts to live out the teaching of Christ especially in our treatment of one another.

St. John's School aims to respect the diversity of values and traditions in Irish society. We aim to develop a spirit of partnership between the Patron, pupils, parents, teachers and other school staff as set out in the Education Act 1998.

The school aims to ensure a sound social, moral and religious development in each child, helping them to be kind, tolerant and co-operative.

Our school is a Christian community where there is mutual respect, co-operation and justice and where each student will be able to develop his/her own unique talents. To this end we need to foster a sense of order and discipline.

Every child is admitted to St. John's on condition that they are willing and able to obey our rules. The welfare of all is advanced by having guidelines to direct our behaviour.

## Code of Behaviour

The Code of Behaviour has been drawn up to provide a framework within which pupils and teachers can work together in peace and harmony for the good of all.

The right of each child to education in a relatively disruption-free environment is paramount. A good working relationship with parents is vital for a happy environment which is conducive to learning.

The following strategies are used to show disapproval of unacceptable behaviour.

- Reasoning with the pupil
- Reprimand (including advice on how to behave)
- Loss of privileges/Time out
- Prescribing additional work
- Temporary placement into another class.
- Requiring pupils to write lines
- Issuing yellow and red cards
- Referral to Principal
- Suspension

- Expulsion
- ***Communication with parents. (It should be noted that parents will be involved at an early stage rather than a last resort).***

All pupils are expected to be respectful towards their Teachers and Ancillary Staff. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour towards them will be regarded as serious or gross misbehaviour.

Parents are partners in the education process and good communication between parents and teachers is vital. Should you wish to meet your child's teacher, you may contact our school secretary at 9162537 and arrange such a meeting by **appointment only**.

All members of the teaching staff, Board of Management, Parents and pupils have been involved in planning the code. A copy of this code will be made available to all parents and is also available to download from our website: [www.stjohnssligo.com](http://www.stjohnssligo.com). The code will be reviewed at agreed intervals.

## **SCHOOL RULES**

1. BULLYING IN ANY FORM will not be tolerated. (See Anti Bullying Policy.)
2. Bad language is not acceptable under any circumstances.
3. All pupils must be in their line at 9.20 a.m. and line up properly in the yard at the end of breaks.
4. No running or misbehaviour in the corridor.
5. Healthy lunches are required. Junk food/chewing gum/fizzy drinks are banned.
6. Eating/drinking is forbidden during class time. Food/drink is not allowed on yard at any time. Glass bottles are not permitted.
7. A notification from parents is required when a pupil
  - (a) has been absent
  - (b) wishes to leave during school hours
  - (c) where a child has been late.
  - (d) when homework is not done
8. ***A medical certificate is required where a pupil has been sick and absent for a prolonged period. A written note is obligatory for absences. Pupils who are absent 20 days or more in the one school year must be reported to Túsla Child & Family Agency. Reports of absences are returned each school term to Túsla.***

9. The full school uniform is worn at all times in the school except on the *day of P.E. where a tracksuit must be worn*. **School uniform is: maroon jumper and maroon tie, grey trousers or skirt and grey shirt**. All children's belongings i.e. uniforms, coats, books etc must have name tags on them.
10. (a) School property must not be marked or damaged.
  - a. Classroom furniture must be kept clean
  - b. The classroom, the corridor and the school grounds must be kept litter-free.
  - c. Pupils must take care of all schoolbooks whether they are their own or not or are part of our School Book Rental Scheme.
  - d. In the interest of Safety & Hygiene sensible, sturdy footwear must be worn.
11. Pupils should not walk on the grass or under the trees along the driveway but use the footpath when entering/exiting the school grounds.
12. All homework must be carefully done and signed by a Parent/Guardian whether or not their child is attending a homework club. All test copies must be signed by a Parent/Guardian on a weekly basis.
13. Middle front door to be used only by staff/ parents and special class pupils who arrive by transport provided by the D.E.S.
14. Under no circumstances should a child leave the school grounds without permission.
15. Pupils will obey and respect all teachers and ancillary staff irrespective of what class the pupil is in.
16. Toilets to be used during break times. No roaming or loitering in the toilets or corridors in the school during class times.
17. Pupils should use and obey the signals of the pedestrian crossing to cross the road at all times.
18. Cycling is absolutely forbidden in the school grounds. All bicycles must be locked.
19. (a) No climbing on walls, roofs, drainpipes, goalposts etc.
  - (b) No swinging on railings
  - (c) Footballs may only be retrieved from outside schoolgrounds with permission of Principal/Teacher on duty or 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils who have parental consent.
  - (d) Leather footballs are not allowed on the yard at any time.
20. School bell to be obeyed promptly at all times.
21. Jewellery is banned.

22. Pupils are not allowed to bring in iPods, Gameboys, MP3 players or any other hand held games into school. Toys are only allowed at the discretion of the teacher.
23. Use of mobile phones during class-time or in school building is banned. In the event of an emergency Parents/Guardians will be contacted by the Principal or a member of staff. Text messaging is not allowed.
24. Entrance to school playground is via right of school building.
25. All pupils must remain in their designated playground both before school and during school breaks. (i.e. Infant, Junior or Senior yards).
26. If the weather is unsuitable pupils will remain in their classroom during school breaks and behave accordingly under Teacher supervision. All pupils must remain in their seats and ask permission to go to the toilet.
27. Pupils should line up safely while waiting for the bus.
28. Staff room is out of bounds for pupils unless given permission by a staff member to enter.

### **Board of Management's Responsibilities:**

- Provide a comfortable, safe environment.
- Support the Principal and staff in implementing the code.
- Ratify the code.

### **Principal's Responsibilities:**

- Promote a positive climate in the school.
- Ensure that the Code of Behaviour is implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
- Arrange for review of the Code, as required.

### **Teachers Responsibilities:**

- Support and implement the school's code of behaviour.
- Recognise and affirm good work.
- Prepare school work and correct work done by pupils.
- Recognise and provide for individual talents and differences among pupils.
- Be courteous, consistent and fair.
- Keep opportunities for disruptive behaviour to a minimum.
- Deal appropriately with misbehaviour.
- Keep a record of instances of serious misbehaviour or repeated instances of misbehaviour.
- Provide support for colleagues.
- Communicate with parents when necessary and provide reports on matters of mutual concern.

### **Parents/Guardians' Responsibilities:**

- Children should be encouraged to have a sense of respect for themselves and for property.
- Be interested in, support and encourage their children's school work.
- Be familiar with the code of behaviour and support its implementation.
- Co-operate with teachers in instances where their child's behaviour is causing difficulties for others.
- Communicate with the school in relation to any problems which may affect child's progress/behaviour.
- Sign the homework journal/test copies daily.

**Class Rules:** to be drawn up by each class teacher in consultation with pupils and to be displayed visually in the classroom.

### **Systems of Rewards in St. John's N.S.**

- Certificates of Achievements
- Homework passes
- In class reward systems
- Visit to the Principal's office.
- Commendation at Assembly

## **PLAYGROUND**

- Pupils must vacate the school buildings at break times except on wet days. Children should play within areas allocated to their own particular group.
- Pupils must play safely at all times. Anti-social, dangerous or hurtful behaviour is forbidden, (e.g. wrestling, headlocks, jockey backs, bullying, intimidation, teasing, jeering, fighting, spitting, kicking, charging in groups, bad language, exclusion)
- It is essential for pupils to keep the school grounds tidy. Children must not throw litter around.
- Under no circumstances must a pupil leave the school ground without permission.
- Pupils must obey the bell promptly and obey all staff on supervision duty.



## SCHOOL HOURS

9.20 a.m.	School day begins with assembly in school yard.
11.15 a.m.	Morning break
1.00 p.m.	Lunch break
1.30 p.m.	Classes recommence
2.00 p.m.	End of school day for Junior/ Senior infant pupils.
3.00 p.m.	End of school day.

Parents are reminded that the staff of the school does not accept responsibility for pupils before official opening time of 9.20am or after the official closing time of 2pm (infants), 3.00pm (other classes) except where pupils are engaged in an extra-curricular activity organised by the school and approved by the Board of Management. Pupils involved in such activities are expected to behave in accordance with school behaviour policy during these times.

### Timeframe for Implementation:

The policy will be implemented on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

### Timeframe for Review:

This policy is reviewed annually.

### Responsibility for Review:

The school principal will be responsible for reviewing this policy.

### Ratification and Communication:

The Board of Management ratified this policy on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2015.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairperson of the B.O.M.)

St. John's N.S. does not have adequate resources to disseminate all of its policies to all the concerned members of the wider school community. The policy is communicated to the members of the B.O.M. and is available to the wider school community through the parent's representatives on the B.O.M. All St. John's policies are available for inspection in the school or on our website.