



Beaumont Hospital School Code of Behaviour

Title

Behaviour Management

Introductory Statement

This policy was originally formulated in 2011 by school staff and management.

Rationale

To ensure the maintenance of a supportive school environment.

- To formalise existing procedures regarding behaviour management as required under DES Circular 20/90 on School Discipline and under the Education Welfare Act, 2000, Section 23 (1) which refers to *the obligation on schools to prepare a code of behaviour in respect of the students registered at the school. It details in Section 23(2), that the code of behaviour shall specify:*
 - A. *The standards of behaviour that shall be observed by each student attending the school;*
 - B. *The measures that shall be taken when a student fails or refuses to observe those standards;*
 - C. *The procedures to be followed before a student may be suspended or expelled from the school concerned;*
 - D. *The grounds for removing a suspension imposed in relation to a student; and*
 - E. *The procedures to be followed in relation to a child's absence from school.*

Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school

The behaviour policy is consistent with the schools mission to provide high quality educational opportunities to patients in a supportive environment. Provision of the service is undertaken in cooperation with school staff, medical staff and parents, in order to nurture the potential of the whole child.

The behaviour policy will provide a clear value statement and guidelines to ensure a positive code of behaviour throughout the school which provides a service to children at a time when they are hospital.

Aims

May include:

- To create an atmosphere of respect, tolerance and consideration for others
- To allow the school to function in an orderly way where children can make progress in all aspects of their development
- To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the school community taking particular cognisance of patients medical needs and hospital environmental issues (e.g. the presence in school of pupils with IVs, ICP monitors, EVDs etc)

Content of policy

1. **Guidelines for behaviour in the school**
2. **Positive strategies for managing behaviour**
 - **Classroom**
 - **Rewarding positive behaviour**

- **Strategies for dealing with unacceptable behaviour**

3. Keeping records

- **Class**
- **School records**

4. Reference to other policies

1. Guidelines for behaviour in the school

The Education Welfare Act, Section 23, states that the code of behaviour shall specify *“the standards of behaviour that shall be observed by each student attending the school”*.

- Each pupil is expected to be well behaved and to show consideration for other children and adults
- Each pupil is expected to show respect for the property of the school, other children’s and their own belongings
- Each pupil is expected to attend school where deemed medically fit.
- Each pupil is expected to do his/her best both in schoolwork.

Section 23 (4) of the Act further states that, prior to registering a pupil, the principal teacher shall provide the parents of the child with a copy of the school’s code of behaviour and that the principal *‘may, as a condition of so registering such child, require his or her parents to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour so provided is acceptable to them and that they shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the child’*.

The school’s code of behaviour will be clearly on display in the classroom for pupils and visiting parents.

(Plans are in place to develop a school website on which all policies will be available for parents)

2. Positive strategies for managing behaviour

‘The most effective methodology that teachers develop in attempting to manage challenging behaviour is to prevent it occurring in the first place’. (Managing Challenging Behaviour, Guidelines for teachers INTO 2004: 5).

Classroom

- “Ground rules”/ behavioural expectations are on display in the classroom.
 - Be Gentle with each other
 - Be kind
 - Have fun
 - Work hard
- Pupil’s input in devising the class rules
- Timetabling can be used as a means of ensuring that classes are age appropriate and a balance is maintained in lesson content so as to sustain attention and interest.

Rewards and acknowledgement of good behaviour

Good behaviour is recognised by verbal praise, stars/stickers and communicating with parents.

Strategies for dealing with unacceptable behaviour

The Education (Welfare) Act 2000, Section 23, states that a school must outline *‘the measures that may be taken if a student fails to observe the standards of behaviour that the school has outlined’*.

For the purpose of this document, a misdemeanour is categorised as any behaviour which threatens the Physical/emotional and medical safety of the children attending school.

Strategies for dealing with Misdemeanours

It is recognised that pupil misdemeanours in hospital school can often be attributed to the inherent stresses of illness, medication, isolation and an unfamiliar environment

In the event of a misdemeanour the following strategies are used

- (a) Check with ward staff to establish any medical reasons for change in behaviour (e.g. steroids, need for pain relief, fatigue)
- (b) Reasoning with the pupil
- (c) Advice on how to improve
- (d) Reminder of classroom rules
- (e) Take a rest
- (f) Communication with parents

Involving parents in management of problem behaviour

'Parents should be kept fully informed from the outset of instances of serious misbehaviour on the part of their children. It is better to involve parents at an early stage than as a last resort.' (Circular 20/90).

Managing aggressive or violent misbehaviour

- In the event of seriously violent or threatening behaviour causing a risk to the safety of the pupil himself/herself or the safety of other pupils or staff will access the emergency nurse-call button situated in the classroom and ward staff will assist.

3. Keeping records

In line with the school's policy on record keeping, and data protection legislation a record will be kept of any serious incident occurring in the school. A risk incident form is also sent to the hospital management and a copy retained in the school.

4. Reference to other Policies

List and check other school policies that have a bearing on the code of behaviour e.g.

- o Anti-bullying
- o Enrolment
- o Record keeping
- o Home / School links
- o Health & Safety
- o SPHE plan

Success Criteria

- Observation of positive behaviour in class rooms, playground and school environment
- Practices and procedures listed in this policy being consistently implemented by teachers

- Positive feedback from teachers, parents, ward staff and pupils

Roles and Responsibility

The Board of management have the responsibility to ensure that the behaviour policy is in place. It is the responsibility of the principal and teaching staff that the policy is implemented. Co-operation of pupil and parents in implementing the policy will be encouraged.

Implementation Date

This policy was implemented March 2009

Timetable for Review

Review of this draft policy will take place in March 2010

Ratification & Communication

Copy of policy distributed to board members.

Ratified
By the School Board on May 1st 2014