

6. SCHOOL RULES – THEIR PURPOSE AND CONTENTS

General

The purpose of the school's rules are:-

- To make every child's experience in class and school a happy one, where they are shown respect and where they respect others
- To promote order, discipline and safety in the school and when on school related activities
- To advocate health promotion
- To encourage pupils to care for their environment
- To provide clear guidelines of behavioural expectations to pupils, parents and staff
- To help the smooth running of the school for school staff

(a) Classroom rules

Classroom rules are normally discussed and drawn up by pupils and their teacher early in the school year. They are usually short and simple, and will be regularly brought to the pupils' attention. Examples of some classroom rules are:-

Junior Infants

Listen with your ears

Look with your eyes

Keep still

Keep quiet

Second class

Be nice and kind always

Put your hand up

Listen to the teacher

Listen while others speak

Keep the classroom tidy

Work quietly and neatly

Try your best!

(b) School rules

The school rules are as follows:-

1. Classes begin each day 9.10 a.m. and end each day at 1.50 p.m. (Infants) or 2.50 p.m. (1-6th class). The school opens to receive pupils at 8.40 a.m. No arrangements exist for the supervision of pupils who arrive at the school, whether by school transport or otherwise, before this time.
2. Mid-morning break is from 10.50 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. Lunch break is from 12.45 – 1.15 p.m.
3. In the case of pupils travelling to school by bus, the school cannot accept responsibility for escorting them from the bus to the school. Parents who feel that their children need to be escorted on these occasions should make arrangements to ensure that some escort is provided. All pupils from St. Joseph's National School, who travel to school on a school bus, must wear seat belts provided and obey the driver where pupil safety is concerned.
4. The school cannot accept responsibility for children who leave school during the school day to attend a clinic, dentist, doctor or for any other reason. Permission to do so will only be granted by inputting the upcoming absence on Aladdin or Class Dojo. Otherwise, pupils are not permitted to leave the school grounds without permission. Class Teacher will note the absence on Aladdin in the students attendance record.
5. The uniform consists of:-
 - Check gym-slip
 - White blouse and wine tie
 - Wine cardigan
 - White or wine socks or wine tights
 - Black/brown shoes (or boots in Winter) – ballet/flat pumps are not suitable for health and safety reasons
6. On P.E. days, pupils are required to wear the school tracksuit and runners. School shorts are allowed in Term 3 (after Easter break) and for the month of September.
7. All articles must be marked clearly with pupil's name – including lunch boxes, flasks, clothes and track suit.
8. Lunch is kept in school bag in classroom until break times.
9. Tins, glass, bottles, crisps or chewing gum are not allowed.
10. With the exception of studs, earrings or rings or jewellery of any kind may not be worn in school.
11. Nail varnish and badges are not permitted.
12. For safety reasons, no beads may be worn braided in a pupil's hair.

13. In the interest of safety, pupils must at all times stay within their allotted play areas.
14. Pupils should co-operate with their teachers and school staff in keeping the school premises in order. Deliberate damage to school property or to property belonging to other pupils must be compensated for by the pupil's parents/guardians.
15. Courtesy, manners and discipline are expected from the pupils at all times. A pupil should stand back and allow adults to precede her.
16. Children are expected to line up and walk into class quietly when the bell rings. There should be no pushing or shoving when entering or leaving school.
17. Fighting, name-calling and bullying is absolutely forbidden.
18. The targeting of a pupil or staff member by other pupil/s through social media, will be considered a serious misdemeanour.
19. Aggressive, threatening or violent behaviour will generally be regarded as serious misbehaviour.
20. Polite language is expected from pupils and swearing is considered to be misbehaviour.
21. Mobile phones are not allowed in school.
22. Pupils are expected to comply with the school rules, including when out of the school on school events (e.g. tours, swimming, prize-giving ceremonies etc).
23. Parents are to be contacted with regard to stealing in the first instance.

(c) Playground rules

Playground rules are as follows:-

- Healthy lunch policy to be implemented
- No glass bottles allowed
- Refuse must be brought home in lunchbox
- No rough play
- Skipping ropes may only be used for skipping (no tying horse games etc.)
- No handstands or similar activities (e.g. cartwheels or rolling on the grass)
- No climbing or swinging on barriers
- Line up quietly when bell rings and walk quietly to class
- Be respectful to children and teachers at all times
- Each class only plays with children in their own class.