

Meánscoil Iognáid Rís,
Nás na Rí,
Co. Chill Dara.



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CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Due to Covid-19 please make reference to Appendix 1 'Health and Safety Control of COVID-19 Policy for students - Meánscoil Iognáid Rís'

School Name: Meánscoil Iognáid Rís

School Address: Corban's Lane, Naas

School Details: Meánscoil Iognáid Rís is an all-boys Catholic voluntary secondary school under the Trusteeship of the *Edmund Rice Schools Trust*, formerly the Irish Christian Brothers. The school is named after the founder of the Order, Edmund Rice.

School Management: The Board of Management of Meánscoil Iognáid Rís is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by its founder, Meánscoil Iognáid Rís aims to provide Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition. The school endeavours to be a caring Christian Community which promotes to the best of its ability the personal, spiritual, physical and intellectual development of its students

ETHOS

As an Edmund Rice School, Meánscoil Iognáid Rís seeks to promote the five key elements of an Edmund Rice School as espoused by the ERST Charter:

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values
- Promoting partnership in the school community
- Excelling in teaching and learning
- Creating a caring school community
- Inspiring transformational leadership.

Meánscoil Iognáid Rís

Code of Behaviour



1. Introduction

High standards of work and co-operation together with an excellent atmosphere are distinctive features of Meánscoil Iognáid Rís. In order to maintain these high standards, students are expected to be well-mannered, courteous and hardworking at all times. The core value of Respect remains a guiding principle in all our work in the school. The aim of the Code of Behaviour is to give students a guide to what is expected of them and to ensure that high standards (which will benefit all students) pervade the school.

As a Christian Brothers School in the Edmund Rice Schools Trust, our Code of Behaviour has been drawn up to reflect the values and principles of the *Charter*. The Code of Behaviour will reflect:

- (a) The Vision for the Edmund Rice Schools: *promoting full personal and social development in caring Christian communities of learning and teaching*
- (b) The Mission of the Edmund Rice Schools: *to provide Catholic Education in the Edmund Rice Tradition*

2. Promoting good behaviour

Meánscoil Iognáid Rís through its Code of Behaviour affirms the rights of all students to a positive learning environment which is free from disruption. Promoting good behaviour and preventing inappropriate behaviour are the main goals of the Code of Behaviour.

We recognise and affirm positive behaviour, progress and effort within the classroom and the wider school. This is done on a formal and informal basis by:

- Fostering and encouraging positive relationships within the whole school community
- Treating all pupils equally and fairly
- Valuing and acknowledging each pupil.
- Promoting excellence in teaching and learning
- Teachers modelling values that inspire students.
- Promoting positive student/teacher interaction both inside and outside the classroom
- Verbally praising students' work and conduct in class
- Positive comments in the Journal and/or on homework
- Student Newsletter
- Promoting positive relationships and behaviour at Assembly
- Pastoral Care - Form Teachers and Year Heads working with students
- Providing a wide range of extra-curricular activities
- The support of our Chaplain & the Guidance and Counselling Team
- Promoting the involvement of parents including:
 - Formal & Informal contact
 - Parent- Teacher meetings
 - Christmas and Summer Reports
 - Use of the Journal
 - The Parents' Council
 - Use of the school app
- Encouraging student involvement through:
 - Promotion of the student voice in all school matters
 - Extra-curricular activities
 - Meitheal
 - Prefects
 - Student Council
- Recognising achievement through intercom announcements, school website and the school app.
- By the school's Awards system including:

- Positive notes in the journal
- The Special Mentions Board
- Class awards for Best Student & Best Effort
- Awards for Excellence
- Sports awards
- Scholarships to the Gaeltacht – Duais Labhrás Ó Muircheartaigh
- Awards for best Junior Certificate results
- Leaving Cert annual awards, including many awards given to students who embody the school spirit of “Dílseacht agus Dúthracht” (loyalty and diligence)
- Denis Dunning Award
- James Fanning Award
- Gavin Woods Award
- The David Phelan Award
- Leaving Certificate Bursaries
- Dr Lawlor History Award
- Parents Council Award for Outstanding Contribution to School Life.

3. Our Expectations and Guiding Rules

The key principles of Meánscoil Iognáid Rís are:

- ***Respect for People***
- ***Respect for Property***
- ***Application to Work***

3.1 Behaviour

- Students are expected to be well-behaved and courteous at all times.
- This includes during class, in all areas of the school, coming to & going from school, downtown during lunchtime or while away on a school trip. All students are expected to show respect for members of the school community whether in or outside the school.
- Students should not congregate at the school-gate or its vicinity.

3.2 Learning Environment

To ensure that everybody gets the very best chance to learn:

- Students are expected to have relevant books, equipment, Journal and copies with them for class and to observe *The Classroom Rules*.
- Homework and projects must always be completed and be on time.
- Mobile phones:
 - (a) First, Second and Third Year students are not permitted to have mobile phones on their person / on school premises during the school day. If there is an emergency which requires communication with home, students should speak to a member of staff.
 - (b) Senior students (Transition Year, Fifth Year and Sixth Year) should have their mobile phones (including all bluetooth devices) powered off unless specifically requested for class work by the teacher . If necessary they may turn on their phones before and after school , at morning break and at lunchtime.
 - (c) Phones, which are being used inappropriately in any way, during school time will be met with school sanctions, which could include phone confiscation and detention.
 - (d) The use of the camera or the recording device in the mobile phone is forbidden at all times during the school day. A student who uses the camera or recording device in an inappropriate way, coming to or going from school, downtown during lunchtime or while away on a school trip could incur detention or suspension from school.

3.3 Attendance & Punctuality

- Students are expected to be present on every school-day and be on time for school and all classes
- Following an absence, a note of explanation must be written in the Journal or sent via the App by the parent/guardian and the reason for the absence given.
- A student may only leave the school during school-hours with a note from a parent or guardian and permission from his Form Teacher, Principal, Deputy Principal or Year Head. He must sign out in the Enquiries Office when leaving the school.
- A student becoming sick during the school day must report to a school secretary who will, if deemed necessary, contact his parents or guardians.
- First Year students are not allowed downtown at lunchtime

3.4 Uniform

- Students are expected to be in correct school uniform every school day.
- The uniform should normally be worn on all school trips.
- Our school uniform consists of :
 - ✓ *Plain grey slacks*
 - ✓ *School jumper /half-zip with crest (must be worn with shirt & tie)*
 - ✓ *Light blue shirt*
 - ✓ *School tie*
 - ✓ *Plain black shoes (no logos or insignia)*

Uniform should be worn coming to and going from school and during break-times

Please note that boots, hoods & caps, jewellery, piercings, badges or other insignia are not allowed. If a student is not in proper uniform, he will be unable to go to class without a letter from home in his Journal and specific permission from his Year Head.

3.5. Bullying

- Bullying is a serious breach of conduct
- All students, parents and teachers are reminded of the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.
- In particular, bullying or discrimination on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, marital status, family status, religion, traveller or other background is totally against the Christian values of our school
- A student being subjected to bullying or harassment of any kind should always report incidents to his parents and to his Form Teacher, Year Head, Principal, Deputy Principal or to any other teacher or member of the support staff.

3.6 School Environment

- Students are expected to keep the classrooms and public areas tidy, well- maintained and litter free.
- Lockers must be well-mindred during the year and kept locked.
- Students may use their lockers before and after school and at break-times but not during or between classes.
- Eating in classrooms is not allowed.
- Students must take care of their own property. Their names should be written on all copies and books

3.7 Health & Safety

- Smoking and the use of vaping devices is forbidden on the school premises and in the vicinity of the school gate.
- Toilets should normally be used at break-times only.
- The possession, use or consumption of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs is forbidden at all times.
- For safety reasons, cycling is not allowed in the school yard.
- Chewing gum is not allowed in school.
- Students may only enter practical rooms, the library and Sports Hall with their teachers
- Students should not go to areas around the school which are *out of bounds*

4. The Consequences of Unacceptable Behaviour

4.1 Day-to-Day School Discipline

Each teacher has authority to conduct his or her classes in an orderly and co-operative atmosphere. She or he has a professional right and duty to use normal classroom management strategies such as correcting students, allocating desks, and giving special homework. Each member of staff has a right to supervise, correct and report students as necessary in all areas of the school premises and in its vicinity.

4.2 Sanctions

In cases of misbehaviour or breach of the rules, a student may be liable to sanction. Sanctions include:

- Punishment homework
- School service at lunchtime
- A note in the Journal
- Being referred to the Year Head
- Detention at Wednesday lunchtime, Friday afternoon or on Saturday morning
- Parents being contacted and/or being requested to come to a meeting in the school
- In exceptional circumstances, being referred to the Principal or Deputy Principal
- Being put on daily report
- Being required to sign a special *Contract of Good Behaviour*
- Being fined - in the case of damage to property
- Suspension
- Referral to the Board of Management for a decision on expulsion

5. Who to approach for help

A student having a problem of any kind is welcome to approach any teacher but particularly his Form Teacher, Year Head, Guidance Counsellor, Chaplain, the Principal or Deputy Principal at any time.

6. Policies on the following related areas are also part of this Code of Behaviour. They are available on the school website at www.naascbs.ie

- (a) Admissions Policy
- (b) Anti-Bullying Policy
- (c) Substance Abuse Policy
- (d) Assessment & Homework Policy
- (e) Health & Safety Policy
- (f) Attendance & Participation Policy
- (g) Suspensions and Expulsions Policy
- (h) Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
- (i) Wellbeing Policy

5. Role of Parents:

The school acknowledges the vital role of parents in promoting positive behaviour and seeks the support of parents in implementing the Code.

6. Origin of this Code:

This Code of Behaviour was developed following consultation with students, parents and staff and in accordance with Section 23 of the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000 and also in accordance with the publication of the National Educational Welfare Board – *Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for Schools (2008)*

7. Review of the Code:

This Code of Behaviour was reviewed, updated and adopted by the Board of Management on 26th October 2023 and it will be reviewed annually.

Colman Campbell
Chairperson of the Board of Management

Ben Travers
Principal

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Appendix to the Meánscoil Iognáid Rís Code of Behaviour

Health and Safety Control of COVID-19 Policy for students - Meánscoil Iognáid Rís (Naas CBS)

1. Introduction

Under the Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, the Board of Management of Meánscoil Iognáid Rís as employer is required to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare at work of all employees of the school. The employer is further required to manage and conduct the school in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that individuals at the place of work who are not employees, such as students, parents/guardians, visitors to the school, are not exposed to risks to their safety, health or welfare.

This policy is influenced by the need to minimise the risk of introduction of COVID-19 into the school community and to prevent its spread. Although it is acknowledged that no single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, adherence to this policy will contribute to the reduction of that risk of transmission.

In accordance with this **policy** students are expected to comply with the standards of behaviour set out in this policy or as directed by the school to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19. The COVID-19 control measures are consistent with current advice from the HSE, the Health and Safety Authority, the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Foreign Affairs and, as such, may be subject to change. Students and parents/guardians will be notified of any changes to the control measures.

Students are expected to comply with all directions from school staff in relation to the school's COVID-19 control measures. Any failure or refusal to comply with this policy or to follow instructions of school staff should be dealt with in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour.

Parents/guardians are required to supply the school with a phone number/s of available person/s who can be contacted at all times and who will be available to collect a student from the school should the need arise

2. Symptoms of COVID-19

Symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to symptoms of cold or flu. The most common symptoms are:

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath
- loss of sense of smell or taste

More information regarding the most up-to-date signs and symptoms of COVID-19 is available on the HSE website, <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>.

3. Standards of Behaviour expected of students to help prevent the introduction or spread of COVID - 19 in the school

Standards of Behaviour expected of students

Students are expected to comply with any control measures directed by the school to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19, including, but not limited to:

- maintaining a social-distance of at least 1 metre and where possible, 2 metres, from other students and staff;
- wearing a face covering (applicable at post-primary level). All students at post-primary level, are required to wear a face covering subject to a limited number of exceptions set out in relevant Department of Education guidance. Face coverings must not contain any slogans/logos/images that may cause upset or be deemed offensive to any member of the school community.
- performing hand hygiene with a hand sanitiser on entering the school.
- repeating hand-hygiene at regular intervals throughout the school day and when directed by school staff;
- maintaining good respiratory-hygiene. In this regard students should:
 - cover nose/mouth with a tissue when coughing/sneezing and dispose of used tissue in waste bin and perform hand hygiene
 - cough or sneeze into the inner elbow (upper sleeve) rather than into the hand, if no tissues are available.
 - keep contaminated hands away from the eyes and nose
 - carry out hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials
 - not spit or deliberately cough or sneeze at or towards any other person in the school
- not sharing materials or stationery, such as pens, calculators, rulers, *etc.* with other students;
- not attending school for 14 days after returning from travel out of the country in line with Government guidelines for travel;
- not attending school if displaying COVID-19 like symptoms and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice
- not attending school where tested positive for COVID-19 and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice
- not attending school if identified by the HSE as a person who has been in contact with another person who has contracted COVID-19 and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice;
- not attending school if a member of the student's household is displaying COVID-19 symptoms and remaining out of school for such period as is required in accordance with HSE/GP advice
- telling a teacher or other member of staff where a student feels unwell at school. In that regard
 - the student will require to be collected from the school as soon as possible by a parent/guardian or a person designated by the parent/guardian for such purpose.
 - parents must ensure that the school has up-to-date contact details so that they can be contacted by the school if required.
- complying with any other such directions as advised by the DES and/or HSE and communicated to the school community.

Note – schools should review the above list and adjust or add items where necessary having regard to its own particular circumstances

Students should be aware that the above is a non-exhaustive list. Students are expected to follow all instructions from staff which aim to prevent the introduction COVID-19 into the school and minimise its spread.

4. Failure to comply with the standards of behaviour

Failure by a student to comply with the standards of behaviour expected to help prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 will constitute a breach of the Code of Behaviour of Meánscoil Iognáid Rís and he may be subject to sanction up to and including suspension or permanent exclusion.

Any actions or sanctions taken in respect of alleged breaches of the code of behaviour will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the school's code of behaviour, the requirements of the NEWB Guidelines on Developing a Code of Behaviour and relevant requirements of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000. Sanctions will be proportionate to the nature, seriousness and context of the behaviour.

A student engaging in aggressive, threatening or unacceptable behaviour that creates or increases the risk of COVID-19 infection for staff, other students or visitors to the school may be removed from class and, if necessary, from the school premises with immediate effect, pending any further action to be taken in accordance with the school's code of behaviour.