

# TERENURE COLLEGE JUNIOR SCHOOL



## CODE OF DISCIPLINE

*“Discipline is an essentially positive concept. It is not achieved by constraint, fear or a reliance on punishment. Rather it flows from attitudes of respect, trust and responsible action on the part of all members of the school community. Our Code of Discipline seeks to create a structured environment in which the young person learns self-discipline, personal responsibility and an awareness of the rights of others.”*

*(Mission Statement for Terenure College)*

*“Here then are the few points ... written down to provide you with a standard of conduct to live up to ... See that the bounds of common sense are not exceeded, however, for common sense is the guide of the virtues.”*

*(Epilogue, Carmelite Rule).*

## **RATIONALE OF THE CODE:**

At Terenure College, a community of over 1,000 people, we aim to maintain a safe and orderly place where teachers and pupils can learn and work together in an atmosphere of co-operation and mutual respect.

More specifically in the Junior School our aims are:

- To guarantee justice and fairness for all.
- To protect every pupil's right to benefit fully from Terenure College.
- To enable all pupils to work to the best of their ability in the classroom thereby achieving their full academic potential.
- To help pupils acquire a high standard of social behaviour.
- To develop in our pupils a sense of pride in themselves and in their school.
- To encourage involvement in co-curricular activities which enhances integration and develops a sense of belonging.
- To develop self-discipline.

## **REWARDS AND SANCTIONS:**

We place greater emphasis on encouragement than on sanctions, in the belief that pupils respond better to systems that acknowledge not only their strengths but also their difficulties. However, it is accepted that there is need for sanctions to register disapproval of unacceptable attitudes and behaviour.

### **REWARDS:**

It is very important that the value of praise and reward be emphasised and utilised:

- verbal praise and encouragement will be used as much as possible by teachers and all those involved with the pupils;
- commendations will be entered in exercise books and homework journals;
- praise will be given for courtesy and good manners in the classroom and beyond;
- parents are invited to share in their sons' achievements by telephone call, personal letter or certificate;
- at Annual Prize giving we acknowledge excellence, participation and effort on the part of the pupils in all spheres of school life.

### **SANCTIONS:**

Discipline commences in the classroom. Teachers set their own standards and in general handle problems and apply their own sanctions which may include; prescribing additional work, written apologies, notes/yellow stickers in homework journals, detention for a period during breaktimes and temporary exclusion from class or school activities.

The following process will be followed for ongoing breaches of discipline:

1. Interview with the principal – pointing out to the pupil the error of his ways, reasoning with him and advising him on how to improve.
2. Formal Reprimand – pointing out to the parents the unacceptable trend in a pupil's behaviour and the consequences of the continuation of such behaviour.

3. Interim Report – this will allow the pupil strive for improvement over a three/four week period.
4. Continual misbehavior may result in exclusion from class and/or co-curricular activities for a longer period of time.
5. For matters of a more serious nature such as fighting, bullying, disruption, stealing, willful disrespect to teachers and/or College Staff etc. parents will be contacted and as a final resort it may become necessary to suspend a pupil from Junior School.

#### Suspension:

A pupil may be suspended from the College only by the Principal. The Principal will be advised by the Teaching Staff. Written notification of the reasons for and the duration of the suspension will be given to parents by way of a personal letter. This letter will be signed by the Principal. Parents will be required to visit the Principal to discuss the pupil's behaviour and his future in the Junior School.

Suspension may be imposed for a once off situation which requires the immediate removal from the school of a pupil or for accumulated and persistent misconduct on the part of a pupil. The suspension will be for the shortest possible period compatible with the nature of the misbehavior.

Two or more suspensions may result in a pupil not being recommended for Senior School.

When appropriate the pupil must be made to put right what he has done wrong.

#### **RESPECT FOR PERSONS, PROPERTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT:**

1. The highest standard of courtesy and good manners is expected when dealing with all those who are involved in College life.
2. Full College uniform is obligatory and must be worn in class and at all school functions inside or outside the College. The Teaching Staff are the judges of acceptable standards of dress including jackets, overcoats and head-gear. Long hair or close cuts are not acceptable. While wearing College uniform pupils are expected to behave in a manner consistent with the standards set by the College.
3. Punctuality – pupils must be punctual and regular in attendance. Lateness (unless excused by a note) will be recorded. Absences must be explained in writing/phone call by letter from a parent/guardian to the Teacher/Principal.
4. Bullying verbal or physical is not acceptable. It is regarded as a most serious breach of discipline. Parents of pupils involved in bullying will be called to the school to meet the Principal and class teachers. Boys who persist in bullying forfeit their right to be pupils of Terenure College.
5. Pupils have a responsibility towards the maintenance and tidiness of their classrooms and the school environment. Litter must not be scattered and school property must not be defaced or damaged.
6. Restitution must be made for damage to school property and/or the property of a fellow pupil. College Management accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to a pupil's property. Names on books and clothing should be clearly marked. It is inadvisable to take in valuable items for school use. It is to be noted that school insurance does **not** cover loss/damage to bicycles or mobile phones.

## **ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE:**

1. To enable pupils to work to the best of their ability and achieve their academic potential the College Authorities insist on every pupil:
  - showing respect for the personal and professional status of their teachers and the right of their fellow pupils to work and make progress in the classroom;
  - having the required books, equipment, etc., necessary for each class;
  - recording homework in Journal;
  - completing homework to the satisfaction of their teachers.
  
2. All pupils must have a Homework Journal in which they enter all their homework for each night. In this Journal there is a section for remarks and parents are asked to check this daily for comments by teachers regarding their son's work. At the end of each day parents are required to sign the Journal in the appropriate place. In this way it is hoped to keep parents informed about their son's work and behaviour. The Principal or a member of staff will normally sign the Journal at the beginning of each week.

*(Reviewed August 2008)*