

St James the Great RC (VA) Primary and Nursery School



Policy for School Discipline

Autumn 2006

This policy has been informed by the views of staff and Governors in workshops and inset.

Aims of Discipline Policy

- To help implement the school's Mission Statement especially its purpose "to provide a framework within which all pupils are enabled to develop their academic, moral, physical and spiritual potential".
- To create a positive atmosphere based on a sense of Christian community and its shared values.
- To define the aims of the school in relation to standards of behaviour.
- To clarify responsibilities and obtain consistency of approach from all staff, both teaching and non-teaching.
- To ensure children know and understand what is expected in terms of behaviour.
- To create a climate which values all cultures, especially cultural differences in showing respect.
- To clarify for parents what is expected in the school.
- To maintain high standards of behaviour and discipline throughout the school.

Aims of Discipline

- To ensure that the pupils experience of relationships within school have a formative and significant influence on their understanding of interpersonal skills.
- To enhance a feeling of belonging and pride in the school whilst developing a sense of security.
- To lead children to be self-disciplined with an understanding that such behaviour is for the collective good of all.
- To increase pupils and staff self-esteem.
- To develop children's own role in upholding the discipline system by helping them see the cause and effects of their actions and behaviour.
- To maintain the children's right to learn and the teacher's right to teach.
- To lead children to have respect for people and relationships.
- To lead children to have respect for property and their environment.
- To gain a calm, peaceful and prayerful atmosphere in school when required.
- To ensure the safety of all within the school.
- To maintain good behaviour and order.
- To help prepare children for 'Citizenship' and adult Christian life.
- To ensure that equal opportunities exist for all within the school.

Principles Behind Discipline System

The system must:-

- bear self-discipline and self-correction in mind;
- recognise all children;

- lead from imposed to self-discipline;
- be fair;
- include the Christian concept of reconciliation;
- find ways to convert not to condemn;
- be positive and include praise and correction;
- recognise that classroom management is a key part of discipline;
- not include 'blanket' correction or sanctions;
- be flexible enough to be tailored to the specific situation.

Procedures/Methods

We will be following a variation of Assertive Discipline. This has been chosen as it upholds the aims and principles identified above by the staff and Governors.

This involves setting five unambiguous rules and a system of five sanctions for breaking the rules in each year group. It also involved a system of rewards and praise for appropriate behaviour.

These rules, sanctions and rewards are displayed in the class. They are non-negotiable once fixed.

One crucial aspect of this method is every child starts with a clean slate every day. This upholds the principle of reconciliation and prevents a child feeling they have no opportunity to change.

The rules, sanctions and rewards for each group will be added as an appendix to the Discipline Policy. If a teacher/class amend rules they will also be noted in the appendix.

Another element to the procedures are the staff will agree five rules for conduct around the school. These will be upheld and reinforced by all staff. These rules will also be made available to visiting staff so consistency can be maintained. The five general rules will be reviewed termly.

Initially the practice of the discipline framework will be reviewed termly. This will help sort out any teething problems and provide feedback on the effectiveness of the system. This termly review will also provide the opportunity to review the five general school rules.

Five Rules for Whole School Behaviour

1. Show respect for yourself and each person as an individual
2. Always remember to love thy neighbour as thyself and thereby treat each other as you would wish to be treated
3. Refrain from verbal or physical reactions which would cause distress to another person
4. Move around the school in an orderly manner taking account of each other's health and safety
5. Ensure all games played take account of the above rules and therefore do not cause distress or injury to another child.

Any breach of the above rules will be deemed to be serious. The school will determine an appropriate course of action that may include discussions with parents and longer term sanctions.