

**ARDSCOIL RÍS**  
**CODE OF BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE**

**1. SCHOOL ETHOS**

**ARDSCOIL Ris aims to promote the spiritual, personal, physical, cultural, aesthetic and academic development of its students. It aims to create a community where students are imbued with Christian values of respect, justice and integrity. It encourages students to become involved in a variety of activities outside of the curriculum.**

**2. AIMS**

**Its aims are:**

- To guarantee justice and fairness for all.
- To protect every student's right to benefit fully from the school.
- To aid students in acquiring standards of self-discipline and behaviour.
- To develop the ethic of hard work.
- To organise a large group of students so that the life of the school can operate smoothly to the benefit of all.

**3. RULES**

**PREAMBLE**

In defining the code, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances in this school. The aim is to provide a framework for reasonable and responsible behaviour by all concerned staff, parents and students alike, and to ensure that every reasonable effort is made to accommodate the individuality of each student while acknowledging the right of each student to education in a disruption-free environment. The Code extends to the environs of the school.

**EXPECTATIONS:**

**1. That you come to school every day and arrive on time.**

**This means:**

- That you attend everyday unless it is absolutely unavoidable.
- That if you miss school you bring a note to your Year Head
- That absences be explained by note from parents to Year Head
- That if you must leave school during the day, you bring in a note and get permission from Principal and sign a special register book.
- That you arrive at all classes on time and not delay on way.

**Because**

- Time missed is hard to make up.
- The school is entitled to an explanation.
- The school is responsible for you during school time.
- Out of courtesy to your teachers.
- Good attendance and good timekeeping helps a full class do well.

## **2. That you do your best to work both in class and at your homework.**

### **This means:**

- That you listen to your teachers
- That you do not disturb the class
- That you do your homework each night written and oral
- That you always carry your journal and take down homework in it

### **Because**

- The teacher has a right to teach
- Other students have a right to learn
- It supports the work done in class
- It helps you to organise your homework so that you will succeed in school.

## **3. That you come in properly prepared for your subjects:**

### **This means**

- That you have proper books, pens, copies, etc.
- That you bring any special equipment needed e.g. P.E. gear, drawing equipment, etc.

### **Because**

- You waste time if you have not got them
- You cannot do the subject without them.

## **4. That you come to school in full uniform, clean and tidy**

### **This means**

- That you wear the school shirt, school tie, school jumper, grey slacks and black leather shoes. School jacket is compulsory for all students.
- That you do not wear jewellery or earrings or other piercings on your person.

### **Because**

- This is the uniform agreed to by parents, students and the school authorities. Students should wear it with pride.
- We all have a responsibility to maintain image of school.

Final decisions on acceptable standards of appearance and dress will rest with the school management because they have to make decisions on what is best for image of school.

## **5. That you have respect and consideration for other students**

### **This means**

- Being fair to everyone
- Helping other students if they need help
- Not picking on or bullying others
- Not fighting in or out of school
- You respect the property of others.

### **Because**

- Mutual respect is important
- You would like the same to happen to you
- Bullying can cause fear, hurt and hisery. We want our school to be a safe place.
- It could cause serious injury or accidents.
- You would like others to do the same because defacing/damaging school property is destructive and shows a lack of respect for the school community of which the student is a member.

### **6. That you show courtesy, consideration and good manners in your dealings with teachers, other staff members, visitors and local residents.**

#### **This means**

- Full co-operation in classroom
- Not being aggressive in behaviour or language
- Carrying out instructions without demur
- Respectful behaviour to our community of residents

### **Because**

- Smooth running of classrooms demands it
- The opportunities for learning need to be maximised
- Mutual respect is important

### **7. That you respect the school environment**

#### **This means**

- Keeping school clean and free of litter
- Litter must be placed in bins
- Not chewing gum
- Not returning to the school grounds after school hours/weekends/holidays.

### **Because**

- Everybody benefits from working in a pleasant environment
- Chewing gum is unhygienic
- Ardscoil Rís is private property

8. The school Substance Abuse Policy forbids possession or use of cigarettes, alcohol or drugs on school premises or while engaging in school activities.
9. The Mobile Phone and Electronic device Policy bans camera phones and all electronic devices completely. All other mobiles must be switched off and placed in lockers on arrival in school for the duration of the school day. This includes lunchtime and breaks. Electronic devices, walkmans, microcassette recorders are strictly forbidden on the school premises.

### **Sanctions**

In cases of unacceptable behaviour it will be in the best interest of the school community and/or student involved to show disapproval for behaviour which is not acceptable. It is hoped that a student and his parents/guardians will respond to this and that the student will reflect on their unacceptable behaviour,

accept responsibility and change their future behaviour to meet the expectations of the school. A student is encouraged to conform to the expectations of the school without having to progress through the sanctions. Please refer to the Suspension and Exclusion Policy for serious breaches of the Code of Behaviour and Discipline. Less serious breaches of the code will be based on the referral system.

1. Verbal warning
2. Written warning in journal
3. Telephone/written communication with parent(s)/guardians
4. Written complaint slip.
5. Meeting with parent(s)/guardians
6. Saturday detention
7. Behaviour contract with year-head
8. Restitution of damage to property of other students or school property.
9. Report card
10. Referral to Discipline Committee
11. Community service in the school
12. Parents to sign in and sign out student each day for a fixed time if required.
13. Suspension from school.
14. Referral to social services agency or Gardai
15. Referral to Board of Management for exclusion

### **Positive Behaviour.**

Positive behaviour will be rewarded. Students will receive positive affirmation

- 1 Verbal praise in class.
- 2 Written note in journal.
- 3 Monthly assembly.
- 4 Christmas and Summer Reports
- 5 Noticeboards
- 6 Intercom
- 7 Newsletter.
- 8 Directly from teachers, year-head, Deputy-Principal and Principal.

### **Education Welfare Act**

#### **Responsibilities parents and schools have arising from the Act**

The purpose of the Education Welfare Act is to encourage school attendance and prevent children dropping out to school. A National Education Welfare Board has been established and an educational welfare service has been put in place. Now under the Act, you as a parent, must let the school know if your child is absent and the reason for the absence. It is best to do this in writing for all absences. Every school must notify the National Educational Welfare Board if a child is absent for more than 20 days in the school year.

If a child misses 20 days or more of school, An Education Welfare Officer (EWO) will look with the parents and the school to see why the child has been absent. Sometimes exceptional circumstances, such as illness, are the reason for absence and this will be understood. An EWO will follow up on cases where there is a concern about the educational welfare of the child. The EWO will see what needs to be done to ensure that the child receives his full entitlement to education. This supportive service will develop over the next few years.

# **CODE OF DISCIPLINE NOTES**

**1. Uniform Check:**

8.50am each morning. Students must present a note to Principal if out of uniform for any reason.

**2. Notes to Leave School:**

All notes requesting permission to leave school must be given to the Principal at 9.30am each morning. Note must be dated, signed by a parent and reason for absence stated.

**3. Code of Discipline:**

Is based on the referral system (unless a breach is serious enough to warrant suspension/exclusion.

3 Complaint Slips = Year-head meets parent(s)

4 Complaint Slips = Referral to Discipline Committee who will decide if it should refer student to Principal for Suspension