

Temple Carrig School

Code of Conduct

1. Introduction

Temple Carrig School is a co-educational voluntary day school under the patronage of the Church of Ireland. The School was established to provide secondary education for children in the Greystones/Delgany area and also to make some provision for children attending primary schools under Church of Ireland patronage from outside the immediate catchment area. The School is faith-based, Church of Ireland in ethos and responds to the academic, intellectual, cultural and spiritual needs of students with a wide range of abilities and interests, while respecting those with differing faith traditions and those with none.

Temple Carrig School aims to create a community of inclusivity and respect within the life of the School. The School seeks to develop spiritual and moral values, personal and social skills among students, and the achievement of the highest standards of excellence in all areas of school activity and the wider community.

The purpose of this code is to reflect the unique ethos of the School outlined above¹, as well as to set down some guidelines as to what is expected of its students. This code provides a framework to ensure that each student's behaviour is in keeping with the school's stated aims. At all times, emphasis is placed on politeness, courtesy, co-operation and respect for others and for their property. Any action/behaviour which, in the opinion of the school authorities, offends courtesy, good taste, common sense or honesty will be deemed a breach of school regulations. Strict order and good behaviour must be observed by all students, and any students who break the rules must be held responsible for the consequences.

There are a number of areas outlined below where students and their parents² are required to contribute to the harmonious and efficient operation of the school. These guidelines create and foster an atmosphere which is conducive to teaching and learning and the promotion of a safe, happy environment in which students can achieve to their full potential.

It should be noted, however, that these guidelines do not constitute a comprehensive or definitive set of "School Rules". It is simply not possible to detail everything regarding a student's behaviour and the Temple Carrig School authorities reserve the right to make the final decision in interpreting this Code and related matters.

2. Attendance and Punctuality

2.1 Students are required to attend school regularly. It is the duty of parents to ensure regular attendance. If a student is absent, parents should submit a letter, email or absence slip of explanation on returning to school

¹ See also the *Temple Carrig School Statement of Ethos*

² Wherever the word "parent" is used, it is understood to also refer to "guardian" if appropriate.

to their Form Tutor. Requests for long term absence from school must be made in writing to the Principal or Year Head.

- 2.2 Students are not allowed to leave school during school hours without written permission from a parent, which must be signed by their Form Tutor, prior to signing out at the school office.
- 2.3 Punctuality is essential at all times.
- 2.4 Students should be in school at the 8.10 bell and be in assembly or registration no later than 8.15. Those students who arrive late to school should report to the school office immediately and sign the late- book. Students who are late for school without good reason, explained in a note/email or phone call will be asked to attend a short lunchtime detention on the day the lateness occurs .
- 2.5 Students should proceed directly from one classroom to another at class changeover time and should not normally go to their lockers between or during classes. Students should organise the necessary books and equipment for the forthcoming classes during break times.
- 2.6 Students are expected to leave the school grounds within twenty minutes of the end of the last class each day unless they are involved in an official school activity.

3. Uniform

- 3.1 Students must wear correctly full school uniform at school, while travelling to and from school, at school functions and at games. A full uniform list is available from the School Office or on the website. ³
- 3.2 All clothing and personal equipment is to be kept clean and in good repair and to be worn appropriately.
- 3.3 If for any reason a student is not wearing full school uniform, a letter from the parent stating the reason should be shown to the Form Tutor.

4. Schoolwork and Homework

- 4.1 Every student is expected to work diligently in order to make the best possible progress. Basic practical steps in this direction require: attentive participation in class; having a charged iPad, all necessary books, copies and equipment; presenting neatly completed exercises and reviewing each day's class-work through systematic study.
- 4.2 Students must make every effort to complete their homework properly and on time. Homework is an essential part of the education of each student at Temple Carrig School.⁴

5. Extra-Curricular Activities

³ See also the *Temple Carrig School Uniform Policy*, which is updated in June every year.

⁴ See also the *Temple Carrig School Homework Policy* and the *Temple Carrig School Teaching and Learning Policy*.

- 5.1 Extra-curricular activity plays a large part in the life of Temple Carrig School.⁵ Students are expected to participate and give of their best at all times. The highest standards of behaviour are expected during extra-curricular activities and school trips.⁶
- 5.2 If a student is absent from class in order to participate in an extra-curricular activity s/he should make all reasonable effort to complete homework and to catch up on all work missed. If it is felt that such absence from class is having a detrimental effect on academic progress, the situation will be reviewed by the Form Tutor in conjunction with the Year Head.
- 5.3 If a student is unable to attend a rehearsal or practice, where possible as a courtesy s/he should speak to the teacher, in person, beforehand to explain their absence.
- 5.4 If a student fails to turn up for a match or performance without good reason they let the rest of the group down and will be sanctioned severely for this.
- 5.5 All students are expected to attend and to participate fully in Physical Education classes unless they have a written explanation from a parent authenticating the reason for not doing so.
6. Parents
- 6.1 Parents are expected to support their children in school and to take an active interest in their progress.
- 6.2 Parents with children in the School automatically become members of the Parent-Teacher Association of the School and are expected to attend the annual Parent Teacher meetings and the Parent Teacher Association Annual General Meeting.
- 6.3 If there is any matter which parents wish to discuss, they should contact the teacher concerned or the Form Tutor to make an appointment. Likewise, parents should make themselves available to discuss their child's progress, if requested to do so by the School.
7. Property
- 7.1 Students must endeavour to keep the school environment safe and tidy. Care must be taken not to leave any litter in school buildings, school grounds or elsewhere. Eating is only allowed in the designated areas and at the designated times.
- 7.2 Chewing gum is strictly forbidden within the school environment.
- 7.3 Students must respect school property and any damage to furniture or fittings may have to be paid for by those responsible. Deliberately damaging or defacing property is not acceptable behaviour and will result in a severe sanction.
- 7.4 The School can not be held responsible for lost property. Personal belongings should be clearly named.
- 7.5 Expensive items should not be brought to school. Money or valuables should not be left in resource areas, changing rooms or school bags. For safe keeping they may be left with the appropriate teacher, in the student's locker or in the school office.

5 See also the *Temple Carrig School Extra-Curricular Activity Policy*.

6 See also the *Temple Carrig School School Trips Policy*.

7.6 Lockers are the property of the School. Improper care or use of a locker will result in a student losing the privilege of being allowed use one. The School management have the right to open and inspect a locker at any time.

8. Health and Safety

8.1 Students should behave at all times with due regard for their safety and for the safety of others.⁷

8.2 All forms of bullying are unacceptable and should be reported to the school authorities.⁸

8.3 Students should exercise great care and responsibility while travelling to and from school. Special care must be taken at and near roads and at the school gates. Pedestrian crossings should be used where available.

8.4 Students are required to queue in an orderly manner for buses and to exercise special care when leaving buses.

8.5 Any unauthorised involvement with, or possession of, dangerous objects, tobacco, alcohol, harmful substances or illegal drugs is strictly forbidden and will lead to severe sanction including dismissal from school.⁹

9. Social Media and Online Privacy

9.1 Circulating, publishing or distributing (including on the internet) material associated with School activities, including, but not limited to, material in relation to staff and students, where such circulation undermines, humiliates or causes damage to the School or another person, is considered a serious breach of School discipline.¹⁰

9.2 The rules concerning behaviour when using social media shall apply outside school hours as well as when students are in school.

9.3 Misuse of personal items of electrical or telephonic equipment will lead to these items being confiscated and held by the School for a period of time.

9.4 As part of any disciplinary action, the Board of Management reserves the right to suspend or expel a student where it considers the actions to warrant such sanctions.

10. Disciplinary Procedures

7 See also the *Temple Carrig School Health & Safety Policy* and the *Temple Carrig School Safety Statement*.

8 See also the *Temple Carrig School Anti-Bullying Policy*.

9 See also the *Temple Carrig School Substance Use and Misuse Policy*.

10 See also the *Temple Carrig School Social Media Policy* and the *Temple Carrig School ICT Acceptable Use Policy*.

- 10.1 Once enrolled a student is subject to the discipline of the school and is entitled to remain as a student for as long as the discipline and rules of the school are obeyed.¹¹ These rules therefore apply in school, on all school activities and where life in school is affected.
- 10.2 The school policy is to reward academic endeavour, good behaviour and positive contribution to school life. However, sanctions may be necessary when these are not evident or forthcoming.
- 10.3 Minor breaches of discipline and failure to produce work in class will be dealt with by the teacher concerned.
- 10.4 Persistent offences will be punished by the class teacher or Form Tutor. Where a problem then persists the class/Form Tutor will refer the matter to the Year Head. If the Year Head sees fit, the matter will be referred to the Dean of Discipline, who is in charge of discipline. Serious misdemeanours and repeated offences can be referred to the Deputy Principal, Principal and to the Board of Management.
- 10.5 Where a student's conduct warrants it, the Principal has authority to suspend a student. The Board of Management reserves the right to confirm suspension and to cancel enrolment.¹²

11. Reward

The school acknowledges academic endeavour, good behaviour and positive contribution to school life through reward systems such as:

- Presentation of prizes
- Recognition at assemblies and in school publications
- A system of awards called Distinctions and Merits
- Display of good work
- Increased delegation of responsibility to students.

12. Concluding Note

- 12.1 Parents and students should ensure that they are familiar with all other school policies (details of which may be had from the School Office or on the website).
- 12.2 Parents and students are reminded that it is not possible to detail everything regarding a student's behaviour in a Code of Conduct such as this. The school authorities reserve the right to make the final decision in interpreting this Code and related matters.

Approved by the Board of Management following a consultation process with the Student Council, PTA Committee and Teaching Staff:

28th June 2019

¹¹ See also the *Temple Carrig School Disciplinary Procedures Policy*.

¹² See also the *Temple Carrig School Pupil Exclusion Procedures*.