

The Sanctions

Teachers will use praise of other pupils and gentle reminders of a rule to encourage pupils that are misbehaving to return to following the rules. Normally, this is enough to get them back on track, enabling them and others to learn.

When they continue to break the rules or in the case of serious misbehaviour, pupils will be given a 'sanction'.

For every sanction that a pupil is given they will move up a 'step'.

On each step, a pupil is told why they have been sanctioned and given time to change their behaviour and are encouraged to follow the rules.

The steps are as follows:

- Step 1 - Verbal warning
- Step 2 - Yellow card, lose 1 stamp
- Step 3 - Blue card, timeout in class (with work), lose 2nd stamp
- Step 4 - Red card, timeout in another class (with work), lines home
- Step 5 - 1 day exclusion from class, letter home
- Step 6 - 1 day exclusion from class, meeting with parents
- Step 7 - suspension from school
- One-Off Incidents of Serious Misbehaviour

Occasionally, for one-off incidents of serious misbehaviour the following sanction may be given (depending on the type of behaviour) :

- Behaviour Warning Letter (Step 4 given for repeat of behaviour)
- Instant Step 5/6
- Instant Step 7
- Step 4 (3 times) and Step 5 once—excluded from school outings for that term.
- **Expulsion** : The Board of Management may consider expulsion of pupils in certain instances. See Code of Behaviour on school website.

Bullying

One off incidents of aggression will be dealt with using D.F.L.

Incidents of bullying (repeated aggression) will be dealt with using the school's 'Anti-Bullying Policy/Pack' which has a 3 stage approach. If your child is experiencing any form of bullying, please let the school know.

Cyber-bullying: Due to the serious and public nature of cyber-bullying, pupils involved will go straight to Stage 2 (Instant Step 5)

St. Mary's S.N.S. Rowlagh



Discipline For
Learning
(Code of Behaviour)

A Guide For Parents

Discipline for Learning

In keeping with the ethos of the school, St. Mary's takes a positive approach to supporting pupils in the management of their behaviour. The school discipline code, Discipline for Learning, is commonly referred to as D.F.L

Background

D.F.L. was first introduced to the school in 1996. At that time, staff and parents came together to look at the behaviour management system and to adapt it for use in St. Marys SNS.

The school rules were drawn up by the staff in collaboration with parents and ratified by the Board of Management.

Since its introduction, D.F.L. has been regularly evaluated, reviewed and updated to ensure that it is a relevant and effective system for managing behaviour in our school.

What is D.F.L.?



There are 3 elements of D.F.L. : rules, rewards and sanctions. All three are equally important in helping pupils to manage their behaviour.

- The pupils are taught all aspects of the code and know the consequences of their good behaviour or misbehaviour.
- We emphasise the importance of pupils 'choosing how they behave'.
- Pupils who choose to keep the rules are recognised and rewarded.
- Pupils who choose to break the rules are sanctioned.
- Modelling of good behaviour and a calm, consistent approach is used by all staff in the school.

The Rules

There are 7 rules in our school.

- They are the same in every classroom.
- They are concise, clear and positive in nature.

1. Be silent and listen to the person speaking.
2. Be on time and be prepared for class.
3. Do as you are told immediately.
4. Raise your hand and wait quietly for attention.
5. Always do your best and allow others to do the same.
6. Stay seated and be quiet when your teacher is out of the room.
7. Respect everyone and their property.

The Rewards

D.F.L. is a 'preventative approach'. This means that we focus on the positive behaviour of pupils using praise and rewards in order to prevent pupils choosing to misbehave.

We use many types of rewards:

- Verbal praise (2 positive comments before any negative comment)
- Informal rewards such as notes in journal, 'Star of the Week'
- Bonus Stamps - 2 a day (rewards given every 2 weeks)
- Medals - bronze, silver, gold
- Superclub - for pupils who have earned a gold medal
- Special Awards - For special effort e.g. good effort, good manners, helping others etc.

If your child is following the school rules, they will receive 2 stamps a day. Please check your child's journal each week to see how many bonus stamps they have received. (10/10 being the aim).