

Kentstown National School

Discipline for Learning Policy

Discipline for Learning (or DFL) is a system of positive discipline used in Kentstown N.S.

What is it?

The emphasis in this plan is on recognising and affirming the children, who behave well, rather than spending too much class time correcting and reprimanding the minority of children who behave badly.

DFL has three elements:

1. **Rules:** A set of no more than 6 classroom rules and playground rules are learnt by pupils and consistently enforced by staff.
2. **Rewards:** In order to encourage pupils to choose to follow these rules, a system of rewards is in place.
3. **Sanctions:** Pupils who choose to break a rule will have automatically chosen one of the list of consequences.

Rules:

Classroom Rules:

1. Silence, whisper, normal talk; in, about and round about.
2. In the line, in class and school; quiet orderly walking is the rule.
3. Have homework done, be tidy, and be on time; in your absence or leaving early drop a line.
4. Bully not, respect property and treat others kindly.
5. Excuse me, please and thank you.
6. Healthy food in the school; Stay in your seat while you eat, that's the last rule.

Playground Rules:

1. Treat others with respect.
2. Play fairly and safely.
3. Follow instructions from teachers.
4. Stay off walls, window ledges, trees and the bank.
5. Stay off goalposts, basketball hoops, bars and ramps.
6. Outdoor classroom table or benches for sitting only.
7. Carrying and lifting of other children is not allowed.
8. Keep off the grass when told.
9. The P.E. container is off limits for pupils.
10. Stay outside the school building during break time. (Ask teacher on yard for permission to go into the prefab to go to the toilet, or wash hands etc).
11. Children with any cuts, bangs or injuries should first report to a teacher on yard, who will then direct them to go inside to a teacher on First Aid Duty.
12. When the bell rings, line up immediately and stand quietly. Keep your hands at your sides, look straight ahead. If you have a ball hold it with two hands.
13. Yellow lines are walking areas.
14. Always walk when in the Walking Garden and stay off the bark, trees, and benches. Walk on footpath only.

General Rules:

1. Wear full uniform every day.
2. Mobile Phones heard or seen will be taken away!

Kentstown National School Discipline for Learning Policy

Rewards:

Each child has a stamp booklet. Max 3 stamps per day. Make clear the behaviour, which is being acknowledged and rewarded, and apply consistently. Put on inside cover of book.

Infants - 1st Class:

30 stamps = lucky dip or homework pass

60 stamps = lucky dip or homework pass

90 stamps = lucky dip + Principal's Award + homework pass

Other rewards could include: homework passes, computer passes, responsibilities, trips, golden book, stickers, school produced certificates, letter to parents, soft drinks and biscuits (class reward).

2nd Class – 6th Class:

60 stamps = lucky dip or homework pass

120 stamps = lucky dip or homework pass

180 stamps = lucky dip + Principal's Award + homework pass

Other rewards could include: homework passes, computer passes, responsibilities, trips, golden book, stickers, school produced certificates, letter to parents, class reward (e.g. a pop corn party, sit beside a friend for lunch etc.).

Sanctions:

Teacher holds Warning Sheet. Each child starts at point 1 each day.

Point 1 – Oral warning

Point 2 – 5 minutes off Golden Time

Point 3 – Continue to lose Golden Time in five minute blocks

Point 4 – Parents are asked to attend a meeting with the Principal and the Deputy Principal

Point 5 – Suspension

Any child whose name is not on the warning sheet gets half an hour of Golden Time each week to play a game/with a toy of his/her choice (games and toys must be in keeping with school rules e.g. swords are not allowed).

In cases where a child has reached Point 2 twice in same week, he/she will start at Point 3 the next day. The child will be notified of this in advance.

Gross Misbehaviours are dealt with outside of D.F.L. under our Code of Behaviour Policy.

Kentstown National School

Discipline for Learning Policy

The classroom rules will be broken down as follows and explained in detail in class.

Rule 1

- Silence - When doing work in class
When a visitor enters
When teacher is talking/reading
When other child is talking/reading
When in the corridor and toilets
When teachers have left the room
- Whisper - During group work/working in class
During Art
While changing subjects, getting books out
- Normal Talk - When asking for help
When asking/answering a question
During class discussion
During lunchtime inside and outside

No shouting

No bad language

Express views politely and be listened to.

Rule 2

Pupils are to walk quietly in the school at all times.

When walking from the yard into the classrooms they do so in a quiet orderly manner.

No keeping places in line.

Stay off the walls and trees

No pulling out of/swinging on goal posts, basketball hoops or nets.

Stay out of the school building during breaks (toilets and first aid are available in the pre-fab).

Rule 3

All homework is to be attempted. Homework Diary must be signed.

If Diary is forgotten or work is not done, unless justified by a note from a parent child must stay in at break and do it.

Full school uniform, or school tracksuit to be worn at all times.

All are to be at the school at or before 9.00am and are to leave at 2.40pm.

Absences from school are to be explained by a note/email/dojo message on the day that the pupil returns to school.

Keep the yard litter-free

Unused lunch and papers are to be brought home.

Rule 4

Bullying is absolutely prohibited.

Incidents of bullying are to be reported to the Principal or any one of the teachers as soon as possible, so that the matter can be dealt with swiftly.

All are to respect the property of the school.

Kentstown National School Discipline for Learning Policy

All are to respect the property of others – return what you have borrowed.
All pupils are to treat each other kindly and fairly at the class time and at playtime.
Dangerous articles e.g. knives, sharp objects, aerosols, matches, lighters or any other objects that would be considered a danger to others in the school, are not permitted.

Rule 5

All are to (a) excuse themselves when interrupting, (b) say “Please” when asking, and (c) Thank you” upon receiving something.
Children stand and greet when a special visitor enters and exits the classroom.
Hold door for teacher to enter.
Knock before entering another classroom and say “excuse me” or “Gabh mo leithséal”.

Rule 6

Healthy lunches lead to healthy minds and bodies.
Healthy food helps us to listen better, work better, and play better in our school.
Bring home-unused lunch and papers.

This policy was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management on _____

Signed: _____
Peadar Moynihan
Chairperson of Kentstown National School Board of Management