



**LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL,  
CLONMEL**

# **Code of Behaviour**

## **Ratified by The Board of Management on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

1. The Loreto Clonmel Child Protection Policy.
2. The Loreto Clonmel RSE Policy.



## LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL, CLONMEL

### **Mission Statement**

*Our school is a caring, Christian community  
in which students have the opportunity to achieve  
academic excellence and to grow spiritually,  
emotionally, socially, creatively and physically  
in a healthy environment.*

# Guidelines

## Loreto Student Reflection

### *Introduction*

We all need to take time out, to slow down, to make good choices, to improve our mental wellbeing and to give thanks to God. One way of doing this is through the *Loreto Student Reflection*. Teachers can help students practise this reflection by using the guidelines below. You may add any other prompts and examples that are suitable.

### *1. Take One Moment*

Help the students to find a sense of calm, for example:

- Play a piece of relaxing music
- Close your eyes
- Become aware of your breathing
- Clear your head and relax

Explain to the students that they are now going to look back on their day.

### *2. Think of One Good Thing that Happened*

Ask the students to reflect on their day and to recall the positive things that happened. Give the students some examples:

- Did you help someone or do something worthwhile for someone?
- Did someone help you or do something nice for you?

Encourage the students to focus on one of these good moments and to think about how they felt.

### *3. Think of One Thing that Could have been Better*

Once again ask the students to reflect on their day and recall one thing that could have been better. Give some examples:

- Did you upset someone by your actions or words?
- Did you see someone being rude or disrespectful towards others?

Encourage the students to think about what they could have done differently.

### *4. Be Thankful to God for Today and Look Forward to Tomorrow*

Lead the students in a short prayer of thanks for all that happened today.

Encourage the students to reflect on a goal for tomorrow.

The following prompts may guide their prayer and reflection:

- Thank you God for .....
- Tomorrow I will try .....

ROOTED  
RESPONSIVE  
RELEVANT



shared by the 2017  
conference in Pretoria,  
South Africa

A Mary Ward school today affirms the centrality of the person of Jesus. His gospel and our particular charism offer to education a profound way of being, acting as a positive force for transformation of lives.

Building on the foundation of our God-given charism, we seek to invest in the holistic growth of our school community in a deeper understanding and living of the gospel.

ROOTED RESPONSIVE RELEVANT

**Being an agent of change**

A Mary Ward school today discerns what change is happening or needed, and encourages collaborative work to embrace change in order to take God's purpose forward through education.

(cf KG pp 3 & 7)

**Keeping our focus fixed**

A Mary Ward school today continues to take its bearings from Jesus, his gospel, and our charism, and to be guided by our JUST SOUL traditional values of Justice, Verity (Truth), Sincerity, Freedom, and Felicity (Joy).

(cf KG pp 1-2 & IBVM Call 1)

**Guiding and guarding in the use of media**

A Mary Ward school today develops responsive and effective ways to enable the young to engage safely and ethically with social media and emerging technology. This ensures the integrity of relationships while enhancing the opportunity for learning and creating global digital citizens.

(cf KG pp 7-8 & CJ Call 8)

N  
(bearings, direction)

NW

NE

W  
(transition)

E  
(rising, coming)

SW

SE

S  
(disadvantage)

**Owning and developing the charism**

A Mary Ward school today joyfully accepts responsibility for evolving and unfolding in our time the God-given charism that Mary Ward channelled in her time. We continue to interpret this charism, adapting what has been passed on to us, in creative and innovative ways congruent to the times.

(cf KG p 2, IBVM Call 1, CJ Call 8)

**Cultivating values needed now**

A Mary Ward school today promotes not only the traditional values in which it is rooted but also those values needed for education that is responsive and relevant to the present reality and to the future.

(cf KG pp 1 & 7)

**Embracing and affirming diversity**

A Mary Ward school today embraces diversity as a mirroring of the wonder of Creation. Seeing the image of God in human diversity, we encourage the young to discover their interdependence so they each find their own dignity – "I am because you are" – and feel truly affirmed and included.

(cf KG pp 6-7, IBVM Call 3)

**Thinking and acting justly**

A Mary Ward school today is aware of inequalities and oppression in the world of which it is part, and strives to be part of the solution, building peace by helping the young to think and act justly in response to injustice – whether in the school community, the broader community, or the environment.

(cf KG pp 3, 4, 7, 9, IBVM 2, CJ 3, 6)

**Engaging with the bigger picture**

A Mary Ward school today, recognising the interconnectedness of all things, finds educational ways to engage with *Laudato si'* and *Agenda 2030: Transforming our World*. We promote the values, skills, and behaviours needed for living as global citizens finding fulfilment in harmony with all of creation.

(cf KG p 3, IBVM 2, 4, 5, and CJ 4, 5, 6)

## **HISTORY OF LORETO**

Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel is a Catholic Voluntary Secondary School for girls. It is a member house of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (I.B.V.M.). This Institute has a long history. It was founded in the seventeenth century by Mary Ward (1585 – 1645), a remarkable woman who pioneered the higher education of Catholic women. During her own lifetime she established schools all over Europe; at the present day her Institute is spread over five continents.

The Irish branch of the Institute was founded in 1821 by Frances Ball, a native of Dublin. Her first foundation was at Rathfarnham and was called Loreto Abbey, from which title the members became known as Loreto Sisters. All subsequent foundations (at home and abroad) were called Loreto.

Loreto Clonmel was founded in 1881. Six Loreto Sisters arrived on the 22nd of August. The sisters occupied the house adjoining the Suir Island Mills and remained there for about seven years. In March 1889 a fire in the flour mills caused extensive damage to the Convent. In August 1889 the Loreto Sisters bought a residence in Coleville Road. This has been the location of Loreto Secondary School since then.

In 2004 a complete new complex consisting of a School, full size Sports Hall and outdoor play facilities, was officially opened on the Coleville Road site.

Today, more than 500 students attend the school.

**“I hope in God it will be seen that women in time to come will do much”  
– Mary Ward.**

## PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS

May the God of the present moment be with us, slowing us down, revealing to us the sacred gifts hidden in each moment of our day.

And may we be present to God in each other; in our work, in our insights and in our challenges.

May the God of the present moment be with us.

Amen.

Ár nAthair atá ar neamh, go naofar d'ainm, go dtaga do ríocht, go ndéantar do thoil ar an talamh mar a dhéantar ar neamh.

Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu, agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha, mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúnaithe féin, agus ná lig sinn i gcathú, ach saor sinn ó olc.

(Amen).

Óir is leatsa an ríocht agus an chumhacht agus an ghlóir trí shaol na saol.

Amen.

## Mission Statement

*Our school is a caring, Christian community  
in which students have the opportunity to achieve  
academic excellence and to grow spiritually,  
emotionally, socially, creatively and physically  
in a healthy environment.*



This is the crest familiar to Loreto students Worldwide. It is surmounted by the words “**Maria Regina Angelorum**” which indicate the patronage of ***Our Lady Queen of Angels***.

***The emblem is rich in symbolism:***

***The cross*** sign of our Salvation;

***The Sacred Heart*** source of the infinite love of Jesus for each one of us;

***The Heart of Mary*** our human model and Inspiration;

***The anchor*** symbol of hope.

This symbolism is summed up in the final scroll: “Cruci Dum Spiro Fido.”  
Throughout my life, I shall place my hope in the cross.

### **THE IDEAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A MARY WARD PERSON**

Guiding you to success

#### **FREEDOM**

Refer all things in your life to God; you will find inner peace and the freedom to respond creatively to the needs of others.

#### **JUSTICE**

Be in right relationships with all created things; you will live in integrity and wholeness.

#### **SINCERITY**

Be such as you appear and appear such as you are.

#### **TRUTH**

Seek for truth; reflect critically and seek answers to crucial questions.

#### **JOY**

Have an attitude of mind and disposition of heart that opens you to life; be optimistic, hopeful, courageous, open, welcoming, good-humoured and self-accepting.

The truth will set you free – To act with justice – joyfully.

## **PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCHOOL**

We, in LORETO, see school as an integral part of preparation for life. This school embraces Christian, moral, social, cultural and academic ideals. We believe that it is very important to enhance the self-esteem of each student by providing achievable goals suited to their individual needs.

We acknowledge that parents/guardians are the primary educators of their children and we encourage their involvement in their children's education through the Parents' Association and Parent-Teacher meetings. We endeavour to help parents/guardians to fulfil their role by providing them with opportunities to attend talks, meetings etc.

The widest possible choice of subjects is offered, with practical work integrated where possible, so that our students have the flexibility to choose the combination of subjects for the Leaving Certificate that best fits their strengths, interests and future aspirations. For all our students, we aim to develop their full potential, so that at the end of their time here they will leave as young adults ready to take on life's challenges.

Opportunities are provided for students, both in and out of class, to exercise responsibility, make choices and take decisions. Such skills are essential in order to cope in a rapidly changing world.

We believe that our students should be educated for leisure. We provide students with opportunities to acquire the attitudes and skills which will help them to use their leisure time positively and creatively. We encourage a positive attitude towards extra-curricular activities. We believe that the pursuit of academic excellence does not preclude these activities or vice versa.

The Christian ethos has a significant influence on the philosophy of our school, in attitudes, inter-personal relationships and the value system we hope to pass on. We recognise the roles to be played by local clergy, parents/guardians, staff and students, all working together to create a community of faith. Arising from this Christian philosophy we see the school having a spiritual and pastoral ministry characterised by care and justice.



## **A CHARTER OF STUDENTS' RIGHTS**

As a student of Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel, you have the right:

To live your life in peace and safety.

To be an individual and to be true to yourself.

Not to be bullied.

To tell a member of staff, if someone is making you unhappy.

To say 'no' firmly to anything you think is wrong.

To study and learn without interference from other students.

## **A CHARTER OF STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

As a student of Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel, the school expects you:

1. To create an atmosphere of peace, respect and friendly co-operation.
2. To value yourself. If you have respect for yourself, others will respect you.
3. To inform a member of Staff of any form of bullying. (Bullying includes any form of verbal abuse, tampering with property of others, isolating an individual student, etc.).
4. To be honest in word and deed.
5. To have the courage to report any incidents that are a cause of concern.
6. To value the gift of sincere friendship.
7. To take responsibility for your own learning.
8. Not to do or say anything which prevents another student from learning and from doing their best in class.
9. To take responsibility for your own belongings, school property and communal areas.

## **DEMERIT POINTS SYSTEM**

Students may receive demerit points for a number of misdemeanours from their teachers or tutors. Students will be informed as to what misdemeanours are included and the points incurred for each of these misdemeanours.

- Students on 6 points will be on a Demerit Detention.
- Students on 12 points will receive a Formal Complaint.
- Students receiving more than 12 points will be put on Report at the discretion of the Class Tutor, the Year Head and the Deputy Principal.
- At the start of a new school year and in January all students' demerits are restored to zero.

## **GENERAL ORDER SYSTEM**

Students may receive general order detention if they show persistent untidiness in the school building and its surroundings. Students in all classes are monitored by the school's 'Facility Team'. This is a group of students selected from those 5th year students who formally apply for the position and this group is overseen by the teacher(s) in charge and the Deputy Principal. The idea of this system is that the student body regulates itself in relation to how students take responsibility for general order and tidiness in the school. Facility Team members carry out inspections and are under the direction of the teacher(s) in charge. The Facility Team hold regular meetings with the teacher(s) in charge where reports from inspections may be discussed. Any sanctions required are at the discretion of the teacher(s) in charge and the Deputy Principal.

Students who leave books, bags and other personal belongings unattended and not in the assigned places for such items will have their names taken and recorded. Students will be reminded and informed of the procedures around the safe and tidy storage and management of their belongings. Students will also be informed as to how the general order system works and the procedures that lead to possible sanction. Sanctions for non-compliance will be clear and students may have to serve a detention during a lunchtime period in a place and time determined by the Deputy Principal.

## **FAIRTRADE**

In line with the Loreto ethos, we are educating our students to become Active Global Citizens who will work towards creating a sustainable future for all. As part of this we are a Fairtrade school, supporting farmers to get a fair price for their product. Fairtrade products are available in the canteen and in the staff room.

## **CODE OF BEHAVIOUR**

In setting out this Code of Behaviour, the Board of Management aims to present to students, parents/guardians and staff the norms of behaviour and relationships that are essential for meeting the aspirations of our Mission Statement and the ethos of the school as respectful of the rights of all involved in the school to go about their business in a safe, caring and comfortable environment. Our school discipline strategies seek to encourage responsible, positive behaviour and to provide all students with a satisfying school experience, characterised by Love, Laughter and Learning, as well as seeking to discourage misconduct.

### **Legislative Context**

The Constitution of Ireland  
The Education Welfare Act 2000, Section 23.  
The Education Act 1998, Sections 28 & 29.  
The Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007.  
The Equal Status Act 2000 – 2004.  
The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.  
The European Convention on Human Rights, 1950.  
Non fatal Offences against the Person Act 1997.  
The Education of Persons with Special Educational Needs Act, 2004.  
The Ombudsman for Children Act, 2002.  
Disability Act 2005.  
Health and Safety legislation.  
Data Protection Act, 1988 and Amendment 2003.  
Age of Majority Act, 1985.  
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), 2015  
The general principle of 'In Loco Parentis' and Natural Justice.

Learning, relationships and behaviour are inextricably linked. Good behaviour is an outcome of effective learning and good relationships, as well as an influence on how students learn.

### **The Code of Behaviour seeks to provide for:**

- The personal development, safety and welfare of students.
- The right of each person, student and teacher, to work and make progress in the classroom.
- The safety and welfare of staff and their ability to carry out their functions in an atmosphere free from threat or obstruction.

## **Parents/Guardians**

- Supportive parents/guardians and a favourable home environment play a crucial role in shaping the attitudes which produce good behaviour in school.
- There is an expectation on behalf of the school that parents/guardians fulfil their role as partners with the school ensuring that both they and their children are familiar with the Code of Behaviour and support it.
- The support of parents/guardians is seen as crucial to the successful implementation of the Code and the realisation of the aims to all the stakeholders i.e. students, staff and parents/guardians.
- In the spirit of good communication, the school will endeavour to keep parents/guardians informed of their children's progress and to alert them at an early stage if difficulties arise.

## **RULES OF THE SCHOOL**

Because our policy on the Code of Behaviour is rooted in the school's fundamental aim:

- To develop a sense of community that reflects the ethos of the Loreto Order, and the vision of Mary Ward.
- To develop mutual respect and co-operation.
- To foster a sense of order and discipline in order to ensure the personal growth of each student in knowledge, truth and goodness.
- To instil a sense of respect of persons and property.
- To encourage students to take control of and responsibility for their own behaviour.

### **The following Rules of the School are in place:**

1. Students are required to show respect towards one another and towards staff.
2. Students are required to conduct themselves in a quiet and orderly manner at all times, in school, in the vicinity of the school, on school buses and school trips. Any form of misbehaviour or disruption on any occasion, in any place, that would bring disrepute to the school is considered unacceptable and is liable to sanctions.
3. Bullying or harassment in any form, including sexual harassment, and by any means, including social media, will not be tolerated and will be severely dealt with by the School Authorities. This is in line with the objectives of our anti-bullying policy.
4. In the interests of Health & Safety the school forbids the following on the school premises:
  - Loitering
  - Chewing Gum
  - Tippex
  - Aerosols
  - Tobacco or Vaping (or use of e-cigarettes)
  - Alcohol
  - All illegal substances and activities
5. The school uniform, as listed, must be worn at all times, including going to and from school. Regulation P.E. uniform must be worn for P.E. classes.
6. Attendance at all classes must be punctual. Unauthorised absences from class are forbidden.
7. Every student is required to have a Journal. If students either deface or lose their Journal, they will be required to replace it immediately at their own expense.
8. When a student is absent for part of a school day, a full school day or more than a school day, parents/guardians must fill in an Explanation for Absence on VShare.
9. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds without getting permission from their Year Head or other person in authority and without **SIGNING OUT**. On their return the students must **SIGN IN**.
10. Students who remain in school for lunch and/or for supervised study must obey the lunch-time and study regulations.
11. Students are required to respect school property.

12. Personal mobile devices i.e. phones, cameras etc. must be switched off (**UNHEARD AND UNSEEN**) from arrival in school until they leave school and during school activities (e.g. Study, Exams, Extra-Curricular activities etc.).

Should a mobile device sound accidentally during the school day the student in question will receive demerit points. Intentional phone usage is strictly forbidden. If a student is seen to be actively using their personal mobile device in school, they will be issued with a formal complaint.

Use of digital cameras or use of mobile phones for photographic/video purposes is strictly forbidden at all times while on the school premises and during school related activities unless permission is given by the school authorities.

(Please see Digital Technologies Acceptable Use Policy).

13. Homework must always be fully completed and neatly presented at the required time.

14. Single-Use plastics are forbidden. All students must have a **REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE** which is CLEARLY LABELLED.

15. All students are required to follow the **Digital Technologies Acceptable Usage Policy**.

16. All students are required to follow the **Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for Student Owned Tablets**.

## LOCKER POLICY

All lockers assigned to students are the property of Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel. In other word, lockers are not the property of students, rather **students have the use of them during their time in school** and this use comes with definite responsibilities. At no time does the school relinquish its ownership of lockers.

Lockers are intended to assist students with their daily school activities and are assigned to students for use during the school year based on the following:

- Use of a school lockers is not an automatic right, but rather a privilege.
- Students may opt-in to having a locker. It is anticipated that not everyone will wish to avail of the use of a locker.
- Students receive the key to the locker at the start of the school year and this key must be returned at the end of the school year.
- Lockers **MUST** be locked at all times.
- The locker key is the student's responsibility. If your locker key is at home, students will have to work without the items in the locker. If this is a regular occurrence, the student will forfeit the use of the locker.
- Lost locker keys must be replaced. The fee to replace lost locker keys is €10.
- Students are responsible for their assigned locker.
- Students should keep lockers clean and organised.
- Students require a school bag with them **every day** to put books into, which are needed for four morning classes or two afternoon classes.
- Students can go to their locker up to 8:45am in the morning, at lunch time and after school. There is not enough time to go to the locker at break time. Outside these times students need a teacher's permission to access lockers.
- Students participate in a clean-up rota to maintain locker areas in good order.
- Students are responsible for safeguarding their own property at all times.
- The school is not responsible for loss or theft or damage of material stored in lockers.
- If a locker requires maintenance, please inform the Deputy Principal.

**In taking up use of a locker a student and their parent/guardian agree to the above.**

## DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

**When students break school rules, Demerit Points and/or Formal Complaint and/or other sanctions will be imposed. The reason for sanctions is to educate students as to why their behaviour is inappropriate, as well as to make students aware of and sensitive to all the possible consequences of the behaviour in question.**

1. If a student misbehaves they will be corrected in the first instance by the **SUBJECT TEACHER** and encouraged to change their behaviour and may receive appropriate demerit points at the teacher's discretion.
2. If the misbehaviour continues, the teacher may report the student to the **CLASS TUTOR** or **Year Head**. Year Head, Class Tutor or teacher may give further demerit points if appropriate.
3. Demerit points are for less serious misdemeanours and misbehaviour. More serious misconduct may result in **FORMAL COMPLAINT, ON REPORT, SUSPENSION** or even **EXPULSION**, depending on the severity of the misbehaviour. The relevant sanction will be at the discretion of the Teacher, Tutor, Year Head or Deputy Principal and may be chosen after consultation and may include the Principal in very serious cases.
4. If students receive a **FORMAL COMPLAINT** they will be required to do **DETENTION** on an appointed day for 30 minutes. The parents/guardians will be notified by letter with a form attached and signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the school. The Year Head will verbally inform the students of the detention. Failure to report for **DETENTION** is regarded as a serious breach of discipline and may result in **SUSPENSION**.
5. If a student receives a **SECOND FORMAL COMPLAINT**, the Year Head will put the student **ON REPORT** and again inform the parents by letter. The student will be required to do further **DETENTION**.
6. If a student is put **ON REPORT A SECOND TIME** in the school year the parents/guardians will be asked to meet the **PRINCIPAL** and/or **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**. **SUSPENSION** may be considered at this stage.
7. If a matter is sufficiently serious the **PRINCIPAL** (or the Acting Principal) has the right to **SUSPEND** a student at any time without going through the above procedures.
8. The **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT** may be obliged to resort to **EXPULSION** in the most extreme cases of indiscipline after all pastoral resources available within and to the school have been utilised, every other sanction has been exhausted and due procedures have been followed.



**Note:**

1. In cases of unacceptable behaviour a teacher may decide to give a written **FORMAL COMPLAINT** to a student at the time of the incident.
2. When a student is **ON REPORT** for the duration of a week, at the end of each class, the class teacher writes a report on the student's behaviour. The **On Report Form** must be given to class teacher at the start of each class. This report must be collected by students from their Year Head before first period each day and the completed form must be returned by the students to their Year Head at the end of the school day.
3. Students who break School Rules may be **DENIED PRIVILEGES** at the discretion of the **PRINCIPAL**. Any student who has received a **FORMAL COMPLAINT** at any time during the school year must get written permission from the **PRINCIPAL** or **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL** before going on any school trip.
4. It is the students' responsibility to make themselves aware of the time and date of **DETENTION**.
5. As all students are given their own Office 365 account and all students have their own school device, it is necessary for students to follow an **ACCEPTABLE USER POLICY (AUP)** for each of these. Failure to follow the AUP guidelines will include sanctions with Demerit Points for minor breaches and Formal Complaints for more serious breaches and very serious breaches of the AUP may result in suspension or expulsion of students. The guidelines are put in place to provide a safe and secure environment for our students to use all forms of digital technologies sanctioned by our school.

## MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER MULTI-MEDIA EQUIPMENT

The unauthorised use of mobile phones, digital cameras, photographs, video recordings, audio and visual clips etc. have the potential to seriously infringe on people's rights. The mobile phone in particular is one of the most intrusive features of modern living and it can have a very disruptive influence in the classroom. Our policy on mobile phone and other multi-media equipment is therefore devised with the intention of ensuring that teaching and learning can take place without interruption and also with the intention of protecting students and staff from potential harassment or bullying.

### POLICY CONTENT

- The school authorities **strongly** request that students **do not** bring mobile phones, iPods, digital cameras or any other multi-media equipment to school.
- Urgent messages from a parent to a student and vice versa may be transmitted through the office. Students are not permitted to use a personal mobile device to communicate with home. This qualifies as intentional phone usage and the appropriate sanction, i.e., a **FORMAL COMPLAINT**, will apply.
- Should it be absolutely necessary for a student to have a mobile phone **for use coming to and from school**, it must remain switched off (**UNSEEN AND UNHEARD**) from arrival in school until they leave school and during school activities. It should be kept, preferably, in the student's locker.
- Students participating in school related activities (study, extra-curricular activities, school trips, tours etc.) must abide by the rules governing these activities and all school rules.
- Use of tablets or any device that records digital images or videos without the subject's prior knowledge and permission is strictly forbidden at all times while on school premises and during all school related activities. Taking or sharing of any photographs, images or videos without prior permission is strictly forbidden. Any infringement of this rule will result in automatic confiscation of the item, which may only be retrieved after due discussion by a parent/guardian with the school management, and will also result in the enforcement of the code of behaviour.
- Any breach of policy will result in rigorous enforcement of the Code of Behaviour **DEMERIT POINTS, DETENTION, FORMAL COMPLAINT, SUSPENSION** and **EXPULSION**.
- Bullying or harassment in any form, including sexual harassment, involving mobile phones will be severely dealt with by the school authorities and may

warrant suspension and/or report to the Gardaí (Ref. Non Fatal Offences against the Person Act).

### **Photographs, Video Recordings, Computer Images etc.**

- From time to time photographs will be taken of students for use in the local newspaper and in various school publications such as Newsletters, Year Book, School Website, Loreto Clonmel's social media, and all Loreto Schools and Trust social media, etc. Photographs serve to enhance school publications and are a means of acknowledging the achievements of students in various activities. Photographs may be taken by staff, students (with permission from staff) or school appointed photographer.
- Video Recordings may also be made from time to time as part of various activities.
- It is proposed that photographs on our website and social media sites will usually be group photographs of teams, and other group activities, or action photographs of games.
- Where an individual photograph of a student may be used on the website or social media sites we will not identify, as a general rule, the individual student.
- **Parents/Guardians, who wish their children to be excluded from such photographs, videos, computer images etc., should indicate this on the relevant form.** *It is the student's responsibility to ensure that she is not included in photographs/digital images*
- Students are reminded that they are not permitted to take photographs of members of the school community such as students and staff members without the express permission of the person being photographed. The posting of such photographs, written text or information about any student or staff member on to school website or social media sites is not permitted without the relevant form being completed.

**The school does not accept any responsibility for loss of, theft or damage to, mobile phones, multi-media, electronic or digital equipment.**

# RESPECT & DIGNITY FOR EVERYONE



## Anti-Bullying - A Student's Charter Loreto Secondary School Clonmel

**I have the right to live my life in peace, dignity and safety. I have the responsibility to tell someone I can trust if I, or someone I know, is being bullied.**

### IF I AM BEING BULLIED I WILL

- ACT NOW  
telling is responsible and courageous.
- CONFIDE in someone I can trust.
- NOT blame myself.
- Stay CALM.
- NOT hit back.
- TELL someone in authority.

### IF MY OWN BEHAVIOUR IS CAUSING A PROBLEM I WILL

- STOP
- ACKNOWLEDGE that I have done wrong.
- APOLOGISE for my behaviour.
- ASSURE the person that it will not happen again.

### IF I SEE SOMEONE ELSE BEING BULLIED I WILL

- ACT NOW  
there is no such thing as an innocent bystander.
- TELL someone in authority

### REMEMBER

Telling is responsible and courageous  
No such thing as an innocent bystander  
We are all responsible  
Apologise  
Look out for each other

### KEY FACTS

WHO ?  
WHAT ?  
WHERE ?  
WHEN ?

HAS THIS HAPPENED BEFORE ?

## SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY

The Student Council compiled a short document to help students use social media safely and has a particular emphasis on avoiding any form of 'cyber-bullying' in its use. This allows the student body to self-regulate their own practice and provides a positive peer influence in the safe use of social media.

| DO   | DON'T  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep your social media page(s) on private</li><li>• Think before you write/say something</li><li>• Only add/accept people you know</li><li>• Tell someone if you see someone being bullied online</li><li>• Block anyone who is bullying</li><li>• Report abuse</li><li>• Keep evidence of bullying e.g., save /screen shot abusive messages</li><li>• Respect people, their views, photos, their opinion, their race and religion</li><li>• Respect yourself</li><li>• Ask people's permission before uploading photos</li><li>• Be careful and sensible</li><li>• Laugh with them, not at them</li><li>• Include everyone</li><li>• Talk to your friends/family/teachers if you are getting bullied</li><li>• 'Being nice is a two-way street'</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Don't put personal details online.</li><li>• Don't meet up with people you only know from the internet</li><li>• Don't say anything you wouldn't say to someone's face</li><li>• Don't give your password to someone else</li><li>• Don't put up indirect (angry) status</li><li>• Don't get involved in bullying or online disputes</li><li>• Don't be afraid to leave a website</li><li>• Don't hack on to someone's page and say mean things</li><li>• Don't start rumours</li><li>• Don't say stuff about others that you wouldn't want to be said about you</li><li>• Don't threaten/bully the bully back</li><li>• Don't respond to hurtful/nasty messages i.e., don't add fuel to the fire</li><li>• Don't put up information about being away e.g., going on holiday for a week</li><li>• Negative messages should never be sent</li></ul> |

## CYBERBULLYING

Bullying is **DELIBERATE, HURTFUL AND REPEATED BEHAVIOUR**. However, as a negative comment posted on-line can be seen/reposted by many people it only takes **one negative post** for this to be cyberbullying. So, think before you post!

We try to promote the **T-Shirt Rule**; if you wouldn't put the message on a T-Shirt to be seen by the public, you wouldn't send it to someone. Words can manipulate the way we think - just because the message doesn't resonate or effect you, doesn't mean it won't do the same for anyone else.

School devices and school accounts in Office 365, including chat messages in teams should only be used for educational purposes and under the guidance of a teacher.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

The purpose of having a school uniform is to foster a sense of community and school identity. It equally promotes uniformity of dress standards and consequently reduces peer pressure and enables the school to comply with Health and Safety Regulations. The full uniform includes the Loreto School Crest.

## DRESS CODE

- Students are expected to be neat and tidy in dress and appearance.
- Full uniform must be worn going to and from school. Details are provided below.
- If, for any **unavoidable reason or in unforeseen circumstances**, a student is unable to wear the uniform, a note must be presented to the Class Tutor/Year Head stating the reason. The student must then wear the school P.E. uniform for that interval.
- In the interest of **health and safety**:
  - (i) All students must wear dark-coloured, low-heeled shoes (including brown Dubarry shoes).
  - (ii) Jewellery is limited to wearing one small finger ring and small stud earrings.
  - (iii) All ring piercings are forbidden, including (but not limited to) nose rings.
  - (iv) Tongue piercings are forbidden.
  - (v) Hair must be tidy and long hair must be tied back. Hair should be a natural hair colour.
- The use of lipstick, nail varnish, gel nails, false eye lashes or any make-up is strictly forbidden.
- Students must not wear headgear, scarves or any uniform item which is not included in the uniform dress code, unless authorised by the school management.
- Badges or symbols relating to political or interest groups may not be worn without authorisation by school management.

## SANCTIONS

- Regular spot checks will be carried out. Any student who is found to be not in the authorised uniform at the time of the spot check and who does not have a satisfactory note of explanation, may receive **demerits** or be required to do **detention**.
- Non uniform items may be **confiscated** and will be retained in the office until the end of term.

- Students in breach of the uniform regulations **forfeit** their right to be considered for, or to continue in, **positions of leadership** within the school (i.e., Student Council, CARA etc.).

## NOTE

Students are reminded that failure to report for **detention** is one of the possible grounds for **suspension** and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of the date and time of Detention.

## P.E. Uniform

The PE uniform is compulsory for all students.

The PE uniform is as follows:

- O'Neills track-suit bottoms with red and green stripe and Loreto crest.
- Black O'Neill's shorts with red stripes on the side (for PE class only).
- Plain red polo t-shirt with the school logo.
- Red hoodie with school logo.
- A pair of **sports runners**.

## Pinafore Uniform

The 2021 consultation process found that there was an overwhelming wish to keep the pinafore instead of changing to a skirt.

The pinafore uniform is as follows:

- Dark green knee-length pinafore.
- Loreto red cardigan.
- White shirt (long sleeved).
- Uniform striped tie.
- Dark green knee socks or tights.  
*Note: please buy both so that when the weather changes you are prepared!*
- Dark coloured, low-heeled shoes (including brown Dubarry shoes).

## Trouser uniform

The trouser uniform is as follows:

- Grey trousers.  
*Note: two styles are available as our students feel that different styles suit different body shapes.*
- Loreto crested red v-neck jumper.
- White shirt (long sleeved).
- Uniform striped tie.
- Dark socks – grey or black.
- Dark coloured, low-heeled shoes (including brown Dubarry shoes)

### **Common to Pinafore Uniform, Trouser Uniform and PE uniform**

- **Compulsory:** school uniform jacket.
- **Optional:** scarf, hat and gloves in the school uniform colours, **plain** red or **plain** green or **plain** black to be worn travelling to and from school, on school trips and outside **only** during break time and lunch time.
- **Optional:** for colder weather **extra layers** for **under** the school shirt or PE t-shirt (e.g., base layers, skins, or long-sleeved tops).

**Students may choose to wear either the pinafore uniform or the trousers uniform.** *Students must not mix and match the pinafore uniform with the trouser uniform (e.g., not swap the jumper with the cardigan).*

Similarly, items of the school PE uniform cannot be mixed with the pinafore uniform or the trousers uniform (e.g., the red hoodie cannot be worn over the pinafore or trousers).

All items of school uniform must be **CLEARLY LABELLED**. All uniform items (except shoes) are available in Uniform World, Ard Gaoithe Business Park, Clonmel.

### **Other information**

A **Reusable Water Bottle** is required by every staff member and student, as single use plastics are banned on the school campus and for school activities.

**Note:** clearly label reusable bottle, lunch box, every uniform item and all belongings.



## ATTENDANCE

Recognising that attendance is a vital component of a student's progress and development, the purpose of this policy is to record and monitor student attendance, facilitate students to achieve their full potential through regular attendance and to encourage and reward full attendance. It also enables the school to comply with Health and Safety regulations.

### Procedures for monitoring attendance:

1. The School Secretary records absences each morning and afternoon.
2. Parents/Guardians are requested post a school absence on VShare prior to 8:30am on the morning of the absence.
3. When a student is absent for **part of a school day, a full school day or more than a school day**, parents/guardians must supply a **written explanation** via VShare of the reason for absence. This is a legal requirement under the **Education Welfare Act**.
4. Students must attend **all** scheduled classes each day.
5. Any student leaving the school during school hours must give a **written explanation** via VShare and then sign **OUT** from the Secretary's office. On returning to school the student must sign **IN**.
6. If a student is absent for more than 20 days on aggregate the Principal is obliged to notify the Educational Welfare Officer/Tusla.
7. If a student is late for class due to an appointment with another teacher a signed **a note** from the teacher must be presented to class teacher.
8. Students are requested not to leave class during class time to go to the toilet, but rather to use the break of class at the end of each class.
9. All students' attendance records form part of their term report to Parents/Guardians.

### Consequences for unauthorised non-attendance

- The sanction for a student who is absent without permission from school for a full day or more is **SUSPENSION**. The duration depends on the number of days absent without permission and may result in a report being sent to the local Education Welfare Officer. The student must be accompanied by a parent/guardian on return to school and will be required to renew the commitment to the school's Code of Behaviour by signing the Statement of Contract.
- A student who is absent from school for part of a school day without permission from the school authorities receives a **FORMAL COMPLAINT** and **DETENTION**.
- A student who is on the school premises but is absent from classes without permission will receive a **FORMAL COMPLAINT** and **DETENTION**.

- Any student who is absent without permission may be **DENIED PRIVILEGES** (e.g., school trips etc.) at the discretion of the Principal/Deputy Principal.
- Students do not have permission to work or study anywhere on the school premises at any time without the supervision of a staff member.
- The above applies to supervised study after school also.

### **PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS WHO FEEL UNWELL**

1. Students who feel unwell must report to the Secretary's office, having first sought permission from their class teacher.
2. The Secretary will telephone their parents/guardians.
3. Parents/Guardians must provide the school with emergency contact numbers and ensure that there is always someone available for the school to contact, should it be necessary.
4. Students are signed in the medical note-book in the Secretary's office. The length of time spent in the reception area is stated. However, this may be up to a maximum of 30 minutes, unless the student is waiting to be collected.
5. If students leave the school, they must sign OUT from the Secretary's office.
7. If students need to go home unexpectedly parents/guardians must come into the school to sign the student OUT.

**Note:** In the case of an emergency, if the parents/guardians cannot be reached, the school will call a doctor or bring the student to hospital.

**For health and safety reasons no student may leave the school at any time without permission from Year Head, Deputy Principal or Principal. Signing out only is not sufficient.**

### **PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING PUNCTUALITY**

**Punctuality is a valuable aspect of class management. It is essential that students attend class punctually to ensure an orderly learning environment.**

- All students are expected to be punctual for each class, each day.
- Students who are late for first class in the morning and after lunch must sign the **PUNCTUALITY BOOK** and will receive a **LATE SLIP** from the Office – to be presented to the relevant teacher.
- Punctuality is monitored by the Year Head and students will receive one demerit point for each late arrival.
- Students who report late to class at other times may be sanctioned by the class teacher with Demerit Points.
- Students' punctuality records form part of their term report to parents/guardians.

- Failure to report for Detention is considered a serious breach of discipline and may result in **SUSPENSION**. It is the students' responsibility to make themselves aware of **DETENTION** time and date.
- For students late on a regular basis this could mean a **Formal Complaint and Detention**.

### **LUNCH-TIME ARRANGEMENTS**

**1st, 2nd and 3rd Year students may leave at lunch time ONLY to have lunch in their parents'/guardians' home. A letter of verification from parents/guardians is required. The following arrangements apply to Junior Cycle students.**

1. Any student who leaves the school grounds without permission will get an automatic **FORMAL COMPLAINT**.
2. Spot checks will be made.
3. If Junior Cycle students wish to leave the school grounds at lunch time parents'/guardians' permission must be given by presenting a dated signed letter to the **YEAR HEAD before morning break**.
4. Junior Cycle students must wait for any visitors inside the school gates at lunch time.
5. In certain circumstances, for a specified period, a student may be obliged to **SIGN IN** at specified times during the lunch hour.
6. Students are **NOT** permitted to leave the school grounds during the morning break time.

### **UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE AT ANY TIME**

**Unauthorised absence from the school premises at any time (including supervised study) or from classes by students is a serious breach of health and safety guidelines and is a serious breach of discipline.** The school authorities cannot accept responsibility for students who absent themselves from school or from a class for any purpose without prior permission.

**If a student is absent without permission Parents/Guardians are responsible for students.** Parents/Guardians are also responsible for students when they sign out during the school day.

The Principal/Deputy Principal reserve the right to exercise discretion in the implementation of the sanctions in exceptional circumstances.

## **SUSPENSION**

In cases where students fail to observe the Code of Behaviour and in the interests of Health and Safety, it is necessary, for the good of the school community as a whole, to impose sanctions on such students, including suspension or expulsion where warranted. The school's approach to suspension and expulsion takes due consideration of the rights and responsibilities inherent in the Education Act 1998, Education Welfare Act 2000, Equal Status Act 2000 and the principles of fairness and natural justice.

### **POSSIBLE GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION**

Suspension will be considered for serious breaches of the Code of Behaviour. Such breaches of the Code of Behaviour include but are not limited to:

- Endangering the safety or health of any member of the school community.
- Disrespect or defiance towards any member of staff and the harassment, intimidation or bullying of any member of the school community.
- Refusal to obey clear and reasonable instructions of staff members on a repeated basis.
- Possession, use, or supply of prohibited substances (including alcohol, drugs or associated paraphernalia) in the school, on school trips, or in the course of any school related activity. Exception will be made only for legitimate medicinal use with the prior notification of the school authorities.
- Deliberate vandalism, including the writing of graffiti, in relation to school property or the property of a member of the school community.
- Interference with or persistent disruption of teaching and learning.
- Smoking, vaping and use of e-cigarettes anywhere inside or in the immediate vicinity of the school grounds or on any school organised activities on or off the school campus.
- The use of obscene, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language.
- Hitting, punching or slapping or using any form of physical violence on any member of the school community.
- Damaging the good name and reputation of the school.
- Truancy.
- Failure to report for detention without reasonable and timely explanation.
- Inappropriate use of technological devices including photographing, videoing and recording without permission on school premises or during school activities.
- Stealing, fighting, or the possession of offensive weapons. In addition to being serious breaches that incur suspension, these are criminal offences that may be reported to the appropriate authorities.

## PRINCIPAL'S ROLE RE SUSPENSION (or the Acting Principal)

Suspension will occur after the Principal has:

- ensured that all **discipline options** under the Code of Behaviour have been applied and documented.
- ensured that all **appropriate support personnel** (internal and external) have been involved.
- ensured that **discussion** has occurred with the student and parent/guardian regarding specific misbehaviour which the school considers unacceptable and which may lead to suspension.
- ensured that **diagnostic assessments** have been carried out where appropriate, particularly where unacceptable behaviour is ongoing and consistent.
- provided a **formal written warning** detailing these behaviours as well as clear expectations of what is required of the student in the future (except in cases of very serious misconduct)
- recorded all **action** taken.
- copied all **correspondence**.

## PROCEDURE FOR SUSPENSION

- The Principal makes the decision to suspend a student on the basis of the reasons set out in the Code of Behaviour and the parameters set out by the Board of Management.
- The student will be informed of the precise grounds which gave rise to the suspension.
- Parents/Guardians will be informed in writing and invited to come to the school for a meeting. If suspension is to be immediate (e.g., in the interests of health and safety), parents/guardians may be informed by phone, with written follow-up.
- Students will not be sent home during a school day unless collected by a parent/guardian or some other suitable arrangement is made.
- Before a long suspension is imposed, a formal meeting comprising some of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Guidance Counsellor, Year Head and Parents/Guardians may be convened in an attempt to resolve matters and/or to explain the reasons for the long suspension.
- The school may insist that the student remain at home while an appeal on a suspension is being processed.
- Where a suspension may already have been served before the appeal is actually heard, in cases where the appeal is successful, the record of the suspension will be removed from the student's file.

- The Principal (or the Acting Principal) may suspend immediately in some circumstances e.g. violence, threats of violence, illegal drugs, etc.

All suspension decisions will include a **formal letter of notification** to Parents/Guardians that will include the following, where relevant:

- Notice of suspension.
- Effective date of suspension.
- Duration of suspension.
- Reason(s) for suspension.
- Expectations of the student while on suspension (study programme may be attached).
- Importance of the assistance of parents/guardians in resolving the matter.
- A statement that the student is under the care and responsibility of the parents/guardians while on suspension.
- A statement that the Education Welfare Board has been informed. (If the suspension is longer than 6 days cumulatively, or the student has been suspended for more than 20 days during the school year to date).
- Information on appeal rights (internal school appeal/Section 29 Appeal).
- Requirements which may need to be in place when a student returns (e.g., written apology, completed assignments etc.).
- If consideration is being given to proceeding to expulsion.

All cases of suspension shall be reported to the Board of Management at the next scheduled meeting of the Board. In exceptional circumstances, an extraordinary meeting of the Board of Management may be convened.

### **LENGTH OF SUSPENSION**

- The Principal has the authority to suspend a student from attending school for a period of up to and including 3 days.
- Suspensions beyond 3 days are the responsibility of the Board of Management.
- The Board of Management may wish to authorise the Principal to impose suspension of up to five days in circumstances where a meeting of the Board cannot be convened in a timely fashion.
- If a student is suspended for 6 days or more consecutively, the Principal must inform the local Education Welfare Officer.
- If a student is suspended for a cumulative total of 20 days or more in one school year, the Principal must also inform the Education Welfare Officer.

## **PROCEDURE FOR RE-INTRODUCTION FOLLOWING SUSPENSION**

- Parents/Guardians will be requested to attend with the student on the day of her return to the school.
- The student may be required to furnish a written apology.
- The student will be required to renew a commitment to the Code of Behaviour by signing the Statement of Contract re same.
- Parent/Guardian and student may be required to agree to certain procedures which would seek to assist in the student's rehabilitation (e.g., counselling, referral to NEPS, other pastoral supports).

## **GROUNDINGS FOR REMOVING A SUSPENSION**

The Principal/Board of Management may agree that a sanction other than suspension be applied, after discussion with the parents/guardians:

- Following a successful appeal to the Board of Management.
- Following a successful appeal under Section 29 of the Education Act.
- Where new circumstances come to light.

## **APPEALS**

- A student has the right to appeal a suspension to the Board of Management in which case the appeal may be heard by a sub-committee of the Board.
- A student may also appeal to the Secretary General under Section 29 of the Education Act where a student has been suspended for 20 days or more.

## **EXPULSION**

Expulsion is the ultimate sanction imposed by the school and is exercised by the Board of Management in extreme cases of indiscipline.

In advance of any hearing which could result in an expulsion, the school will investigate the matter in accordance with the principles of natural justice (see Appendix : Principles of Natural Justice).

### **POSSIBLE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION**

In general, there are two sets of circumstances in which expulsion may be considered to be appropriate by the school.

(a) Cases where the in-discipline of a student is so pervasive that teaching and learning, and the general running of the school, become extremely difficult. Such cases include but are not limited to:

- The student being so disruptive that they are seriously preventing other pupils from learning.
- The student being uncontrollable and not amenable to any form of school discipline or authority.
- Parents/Guardians being unable, or refusing, to exercise their responsibility for the student.
- The student being a danger to themselves or to others.
- When guarantees of reasonable behaviour following repeated suspensions are not forthcoming or not being met.
- The student's conduct acting as a source of serious bad example and having an adverse influence on other students in the school.
- When the student shows continuous defiant and aggressive behaviour and a total lack of respect for the school's Code of Behaviour.
- When the student shows threatening or continuous defiant behaviour towards school staff.
- When a student shows continuous threatening behaviour towards a fellow student or any member of the school community, which is unwelcome, inappropriate and/or offensive.

(b) First time offences of a very serious nature. Such cases include but are not limited to:

- Serious assault.
- Trafficking in drugs.
- Arriving in school under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Serious burglary or theft.



- Causing major damage to school property.
- Gross insubordination to the Principal or other staff members.
- Brandishing of an offensive weapon.

### **PRINCIPAL'S ROLE RE EXPULSION (or the Acting Principal)**

The Principal will always refer to the Board of Management in matters of expulsion. However, the Principal may suspend a student immediately in some circumstances e.g., violence, threats of violence, illegal drugs etc., pending a referral to the Board of Management with a recommendation of expulsion.

In general, expulsion will occur after the Principal has followed the following **procedures**:

- Ensured that all **discipline options** under the Code of Behaviour have been applied and documented.
- Ensured that all **appropriate support personnel** (internal and external) have been involved.
- Ensured that **discussion** has occurred with the student and parent/guardian regarding specific misbehaviour which the school considers unacceptable and which may lead to suspension.
- Ensured that **diagnostic assessments** have been carried out where appropriate, particularly where unacceptable behaviour is ongoing and consistent.
- Provided a **formal written warning** detailing these behaviours as well as clear expectations of what is required of the student in the future (except in cases of very serious misconduct).
- **Recorded all action** taken.
- **Copied all correspondence.**
- Informed the parents/guardians of his/her intention to **recommend expulsion** to the Board of Management.
- Invited the parents/guardians to the **Board of Management** hearing.
- Invited the parents/guardians to make a **written submission** in advance of the Board Meeting.
- Provided the parents/guardians with a full, **written description** of the allegations against the student and the case being made at the Board, together with copies of all documentation, statements etc., supporting the case.
- Made a **formal expulsion recommendation** to the Board with full supporting documentation.

## ROLE OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:

Expulsion can only occur after the Board of Management has followed the following procedures:

- Heard the **Principal's case against the student** (this case will be made in the presence of the parents/guardians).
- Heard the **parents'/guardian's response**.
- Examined all the **documentation**.
- Considered the **student's record** in the school.
- Taken legal/expert **advice**.
- Ensured the **Principal is not present for the Board's discussion and decision** on the matter.
- **Discussed** the case in detail.
- **Considered all matters** having regard to the Board's responsibilities to the whole school community and to the principles of natural justice.
- Made a **final decision to expel**.
- **Communicated the decision** to the parents/guardians formally through the Secretary to the Board (registered letter).
- **Informed the Education Welfare Officer** under Section 24 (1) of the Education Welfare Act 2000.

The **formal letter of notification** to parents/guardians will include:

- Notice of the expulsion.
- Effective date of the expulsion.
- Reasons for the expulsion.
- A statement that the Education Welfare Board has been informed.
- A statement that the student is under the care and responsibility of the parents/guardians for the period of 20 days required by the Education Welfare Officer to examine alternative provisions for the education of the student.
- Information and documentation on Appeal rights (i.e. Section 29 Appeal).

## APPEALS

A student has the right to appeal expulsion (ref. Education Welfare Act).

- A student may appeal to the Board of Management in which case the appeal may be heard by a sub-committee of the Board.
- A student may also appeal to the Secretary General under Section 29 of the Education Act.

## **APPENDIX: PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL JUSTICE**

### **PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS**

Procedural fairness is a basic right of all individuals dealing with authorities. All communities have a legitimate expectation that schools (Boards, Principals and teaching staff) will follow these principles in all circumstances, particularly when dealing with suspensions and expulsions.

Procedural fairness is generally recognised as having two essential elements.

#### **1. The right to be heard** which includes:

- The right to know why the action is happening.
- The right to know the way in which the issues will be determined.
- The right to know the allegations in the matter and any other information which will be taken into account.
- The right of the person against whom the allegations have been made to respond to the allegation.
- The right to an appeal.

#### **2. The right of a person to an impartial decision** which includes:

- The right to impartiality in the investigation and decision-making phases.
- The right to an absence of bias in the decision maker.

## **Digital Citizenship and Acceptable Use Policy**

### **Introduction**

Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel, Co Tipperary believe that the use of student owned mobile tablet devices in the classroom greatly contributes to the richness and variety of the student learning experience.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the Code of Behaviour. This policy remains in effect throughout the year **including all** weekends, days off, breaks and holidays.

This policy is informed by the vision for Loreto Secondary School coupled with the school's aims to enable students to reach their full potential both academically and socially. The aim of this Policy is to ensure that students will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's Digital Learning resources in a safe and effective manner and become responsible users of digital technology. The implementation of this policy will reflect the pastoral nature of our school.

### **Educational use only**

The student tablet is for educational use only. We believe that there is considerable benefit to teaching and learning and to student welfare in confining the use of the device to educational-use only. This tablet should not be viewed as a recreational device and as such should only be used when a student is in school or completing school tasks, assignments and homework.

### **Equipment**

Parents/Guardians are responsible for purchasing the device, chosen by the school, from the school's IT partner. Parents/Guardians are also responsible for the safe-keeping, repair and insurance of their daughter's device. Parents/Guardians retain ownership and possession of the device. However, by enrolling in the school parents/guardians agree to grant to teachers and school management the right to collect, inspect or confiscate (for a limited period) the device at any time. Parents/Guardians also grant the school the right to alter, add or delete any installed software or hardware that has not been agreed by the school in advance. Parents/Guardians also agree that the school, in conjunction with their IT partners, will manage and monitor the device for inappropriate use of school resources, in accordance with the Digital Technologies AUP. Usage within the school is a privilege and not a right. Students may lose the privilege to use the device and to have it in their possession if they abuse their responsibilities and breach this policy, or the Digital Technologies AUP.

### **Substitution of Equipment**

In the event that a student's device is not functioning, the school will endeavour to provide a spare device for use while the student's device is being repaired or replaced. The replacement device if provided will remain the property of the school and must be returned to the school immediately upon request. The terms of this AUP remain in effect for the substitute device. A substitute device will not be provided until collection of the device is arranged and evidence of this shown to the school. A substitute device will not be given if a student forgets their device or does not charge their device. Only one substitute device will be provided to a student at any given time.

A student is not permitted to bring any other device to school to substitute for their own original device.

### **Damage or Loss of Equipment**

Students must report any damage or loss immediately to the Year Head or the I.T. department who will determine necessary action. All devices are covered by a manufacturer's warranty of three years. The warranty covers manufacturer's defects. If a device is lost or damaged by neglect or misuse it is the family's financial responsibility to replace the device. It is recommended that parents/guardians insure the device.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

- Arrive to school each day with a fully charged device (>80% charged).
- Ensure that only Apps, websites etc. that relate to your work in class are open during class time.
- You **MUST** ask a teacher before using the camera function.
- To immediately stop using a device if a teacher requests. If requested students are not to close any apps and should go "hands off" from the device.
- Keep the device in your locker/bag when not in use.
- Do not let anyone access the device other than your parents/guardians.
- Adhere to this policy and the Digital Technologies AUP.
- Report any problems / damage immediately to either the Year Head or IT department.
- Report any interference or theft immediately to the Year Head.

### **Parents/Guardians Responsibilities:**

- Parents/Guardians must read and adhere to the guidelines provided in A *Parents' Guide to a Better Internet*, available on [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie)

- Parents/Guardians should inspect the device regularly to ensure that it is in good working order.
- Parents/Guardians should inspect the device and the installed Apps on a regular basis to ensure that there is no inappropriate material accessed or stored on the device.
- Parents/Guardians should consider installing internet filtering software in their home.
- Parents/Guardians should inspect the student's device internet history on a regular basis to ensure that they are not accessing inappropriate material.
- A designated charging point should be provided in the house but not in the students' bedroom.

### **School Responsibilities:**

- To enforce this policy, the Digital Technologies Acceptable Use Policy, the Office 365 user agreement policy and the Code of Behaviour.
- To make every effort to resolve any reported issues relating to ownership, possession or use of the device.

### **Restricted Use and Confiscation**

Students who breach this AUP, the Digital Technologies AUP, or, any reasonable standards of usage of the device will be subject to sanctions up to and including, but not limited to, detention, suspension and expulsion. A device may be confiscated by a teacher for a limited period or subjected to restricted use because of misuse either by the student or any other student. Furthermore, if there is a suspicion that the tablet has been or is being used for anything inappropriate then the tablet may be confiscated, retained and inspected by any teacher in the school. Reasons for placing a student on 'Restricted Use' or confiscation or applying the Code of Behaviour include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Non-compliance with this policy, the Office 365 User agreement or the Digital Technologies AUP.
- Inappropriate use of any App
- Use of Chat messaging during class time without expressed permission of the teacher.
- Inappropriate use of the camera.
- Inappropriate, inaccurate, defamatory, obscene, or illegal material found on the device.
- Failure to take proper care of the device.
- Failure to co-operate with school's investigation of device misuse.
- Repeated failure to bring the device to class.

- Repeated failure to bring the device to school fully (at least 80%) charged.

**If a student's device is confiscated students will be required to bring all text books to school in place of the student's Device.**

### **Responsible Use of the Device**

#### **General Care**

- Keep the equipment clean.
- Do not eat or drink while using the device.
- No graffiti or stickers on the device or cover.
- No inappropriate background pictures.
- Students may not permanently alter device in any way.
- Students may not remove any serial numbers, identification or school labels placed on the device.

#### **Carrying the Device**

- Carry the device **in** your school bag when travelling to and from school.
- For safety students should only use the device in school or at home.
- Leave the device in locker or bag when not in use and during break time and lunchtime.

#### **Screen Care**

- Clean the screen with a soft, dry anti-static cloth or with a screen cleaner designed specifically for LCD type screens.
- Cover: screen covers prevents scratches.

#### **Personal Health & Safety**

- Avoid use of the device while it is resting directly on your lap. The bottom of the device can generate significant heat. Always rest the device on a table and sit in an upright position when using the device.
- Take frequent breaks when using the device for long periods of time.
- **Do not provide any information, in particular personal information, over the Internet.**
- **Do not share your passwords with anyone.**
- Keep the device in a secure location when not in school.

#### **Agreement in place when using a school device**

Students and their parents/guardians have read and understand the device Acceptable Usage Policy and agree to abide by the terms of this policy. Students understand this AUP is in effect throughout the academic year, including holidays.

Students and their parents/guardians grant to the school authorities the right to inspect their daughter's device and its Apps/Programmes and to confiscate it for a limited period because of misuse by either the student or any other student.

Students and their parents/guardians give permission to the school authorities to delete inappropriate material from the student's device and to prevent/block the installation of certain Apps.

Students and their parents/guardians agree to be bound by the terms of this policy, the school's Digital Technology AUP, the Schools O365 Policy and the school's Code of Behaviour.

### **Digital Citizenship**

It is envisaged that pupils will benefit from learning opportunities offered by the school's Internet resources in a safe and effective manner. Internet access and use is considered a school resource and privilege. Therefore, if the school rules are not adhered to this privilege will be withdrawn and appropriate sanctions will be imposed. The following rules govern the access to and use of the Internet and Digital Technology in the school:

#### **Respect Yourself**

- I will show respect for myself through my actions.
- I will only use appropriate language and images on the Internet or on the school website/ virtual learning environment.
- I will not post inappropriate personal information about my life, experiences or relationships.

#### **Protect Yourself**

- I will ensure that the information I post online will not put me at risk.
- I will not publish full contact details, a schedule of my activities or inappropriate personal details in public spaces.
- I will report any aggressive or inappropriate behaviour directed at me.
- I will not share my password or account details with anyone else.

#### **Respect Others**

- I will show respect to others.
- I will not use electronic mediums to bully, harass or stalk other people.
- I will not visit sites that are degrading, pornographic, racist or that the school would deem inappropriate.



- I will not abuse my access privileges and I will not enter other people's private spaces or work areas. I will respect my peers and teachers by not using technology inappropriately in or out of class.

### **Protect Others**

- I will protect others by reporting abuse.
- I will not forward any materials (including emails and images) that the school would deem inappropriate.

### **Respect Copyright**

- I will use and abide by the fair use rules.
- I will not install software on school machines without permission.
- I will not steal music or other media and will refrain from distributing these in a manner that violates their licenses.

### **Respecting Technology**

- I will take all reasonable precautions to protect my mobile device and from damage.
- I will always keep it with me or in secure storage when appropriate.
- I will not tamper with its software or jailbreak it.
- I will not interfere with or damage school equipment or attempt to bypass school restrictions.

### **Acceptable Use**

Use of Digital resources to support learning can enhance the activities of teaching and learning in the classroom and beyond. In order to provide a safe effective classroom and online environment the following provisions will apply.

### **School Actions**

Loreto Secondary School will provide for a high-quality Digital Learning in the following ways:

- Members of the school community will be provided with education in internet safety as part of our implementation of the Digital Learning, SPHE and CSPE curricula and through various other educational programmes such as Safer Internet Day.
- Implementing content filtering supported by PDST Technology in Education.
- Providing access to high quality equipment and training to staff to support teaching and learning.
- Providing support and instruction to students in the correct and appropriate use of digital learning equipment.

## **Requirements on users of Digital Learning Resources**

- All members of the school community will abide by the 'Digital Citizenship' guidelines.
- This policy applies regardless of whether teaching and learning is taking place in school or in another environment.
- This policy applies to the use of students' own equipment and school equipment or resources.
- Misuse of digital learning resources may result in disciplinary action in line with the Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy and other relevant policies which may be introduced and amended from time to time.
- Students should report any accidental breaches to their Year Head without delay.
- Students should only use their device in class when directed by their teacher and only for that specific purpose.
- Students must not take, use, share, publish or distribute images of others without their permission.
- All users must:
  - use the School's internet connection only for educational and career development activities.
  - not take steps to bypass content filtering systems.
  - immediately report the receipt of any communication that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, discriminatory, threatening or bullying in nature and must not respond to any such communication.
- Digital Technology can only be used after permission from a teacher has been sought and given.
- When using Digital Technology, the student is responsible to take care of the equipment.
- No food or drink is allowed near any Digital Technology.
- Students are not permitted to take photographs or videos of any persons without their express permission. Sharing of such photographs, images in any format without written permission is forbidden.
- Students are not permitted to use Chat messaging during class time without expressed permission of the teacher.
- Students will only use the internet on a school owned device or on their device purchased through the school in conjunction with the school's IT partners.
- Students do not have permission to access the internet on their own personal digital technology such as a tablet, laptop, smartphone etc.

- The internet is an educational resource for students and therefore it is to be used solely for curriculum enhancement purposes.
- The use of personal email is prohibited at all times. Students are only to access emails through their school O365 account.
- Students are not permitted to make any attempt at bypassing the school firewalls and try to gain access to any sites blocked by the school in conjunction with the PDST or the school's IT partners.
- Students are not permitted to access any other internet other than the one provided by the school in conjunction with the PDST.
- Uploading and downloading of non-approved software will not be permitted.
- The use of personal USB/Memory sticks, external storage devices etc., by any students is not permitted. All files and images etc must be saved and stored on the student's school O365 account.
- Students will observe good "netiquette" (i.e., etiquette on the Internet) always and will not undertake any actions that may bring the school into disrepute.
- Students will not visit Internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.
- Students will never disclose or publicise personal information relating to themselves or others.
- Students will be aware that any usage, including distributing or receiving information, school related or personal, may be monitored for unusual activity, security and/or network management reasons.
- Students are not permitted to use the school network for personal E-mail or social media purposes.
- Users must not:
  - intentionally visit internet sites that contain obscene, illegal, hateful or otherwise objectionable materials.
  - download or view any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.
  - Use personal email addresses for school related business.
  - Share their email account login details.
  - Use their school email to register for social networking services, apps or games or any non-school approved or related activity.
  - Send any material that is illegal, obscene, and defamatory or that is intended to annoy or intimidate another person.

- Access instant messaging services or chat apps on the school network.
- Use Chat messages during class without the explicit permission of their teacher.
- Access video streaming or blog services without the explicit permission of their teacher.
- Use social media and the internet in any way to harass, insult, abuse or defame students, their family members, staff, other members of the Loreto Clonmel community.
- Must not engage in online activities which might bring the school into disrepute.
- Not represent their personal views as those of Loreto Clonmel on any platform.

### **Sanctions**

- Abuse of Internet access, or, Digital Technology will result in **rigorous enforcement** of the School Code of Behaviour, including withdrawal of access privileges, suspension and expulsion.
- The school also reserves the right, and may have an obligation to report any illegal activities to the appropriate authorities.

### **Cyber-Bullying**

- Students will not take part in on-line harassment or discriminations of any kind.
- Reports of the same will be thoroughly investigated and will incur appropriate sanctions
- Bullying or harassment in any form will be severely dealt with by the school authorities and may warrant suspension and/or reporting to the relevant authorities including the Gardai.

Bullying is deliberate, hurtful and repeated behaviour. However, as a negative comment posted on-line can be seen/reposted by many people it only takes **one negative post** for this to be cyberbullying. So, think before you post!

We promote the **T-Shirt Rule**; if you wouldn't put the message on a T-shirt to be seen by the public, you wouldn't send it to someone or post it online. Words can manipulate the way we think - just because the message doesn't resonate or effect you, doesn't mean it won't do the same for anyone else.

School devices and school accounts in Office 365, including chat messages in teams should only be used for educational purposes and under the guidance of a teacher.

### **Agreement in place when using a school device**

Parents/Guardians have read the Rules for Internet access and Digital Technology use and grant permission for their daughter (or child in their care) to access the Internet. Parents/Guardians understand that Internet access is intended for educational purposes.

Parents/Guardians also understand that every reasonable precaution has been taken by the school to provide for online safety, but the school cannot be held responsible if students access unsuitable websites.

Students agree to follow the school's Digital Technologies Usage Policy.

Students will use the Internet and all Digital Technology in a responsible way and obey all the school rules.

### **OFFICE 365 USER AGREEMENT POLICY**

Loreto Secondary School is pleased to offer all students email accounts on the Microsoft Office 365 System for the duration of their time in the school. It is the school policy to allow students to use this account for school-related purposes only. The aim of this policy is to ensure the proper use of the account and make users aware of what Loreto Secondary School deems as acceptable and unacceptable use of its Office 365 system.

#### **Responsibilities**

- Email is to be used as an educational communication tool and students are obliged to use this tool in a responsible, effective and lawful manner.
- Access to an email account involves responsibility. Students are responsible for the content accessed on their own accounts and the security of their account.
- All communication should observe normal rules of etiquette.
- Email is **not** a private mail system. School management and administration of the system have access to, and the right to view all emails on these accounts.
- "Chat" is **not** a private messaging service. School management and administration of the system have access to, and the right to view all messages on these school accounts.
- "Chat" may not be used during class unless with the explicit permission of the teacher.

- Your school O365 account is not a private system and therefore any information or files stored on this system can be accessed and viewed by the school at any time with prior notification.
- Accounts details are not to be shared with other students.
- Students are not to give another individual access to their Office 365 account and must make no attempt to access another individual's account.
- Students are not to create or transmit any abusive, obscene, threatening, defamatory, offensive or harassing images or material, or cause offence to another individual or discriminate on the grounds of gender, marital status, sexual orientation, religious or political belief, age, disability, race, colour or membership of the traveller community.
- Students will not open e-mail attachments from unsolicited or unknown sources. If they receive such emails, they must report them to their Year Head straight away.

By following the guidelines in this policy, the email user can minimise the risks involved in the use of email. If any student disregards the rules set out in this Policy, they will be removed from the system and hence not have access to a school Office 365 account.

### **Personal use**

It is strictly forbidden to use the email system for anything other than legitimate school purposes. Therefore, the sending of personal emails, chain letters, junk mail, jokes and executables is prohibited. All messages distributed via the Loreto Clonmel email system, or information stored on the O365 system are the school's property and can be viewed by the school at any time.

### **Passwords**

The use of passwords to gain access to the computer system or to secure specific files does not provide users with an expectation of privacy in the respective system or document. All users can change their O365 account password at any time if they so wish. All messages distributed via the Loreto Clonmel email system, or information stored on the O365 system are the school's property and can be viewed by the school at any time.

### **Email accounts**

All email accounts maintained on our email systems are property of Loreto Clonmel. Passwords should not be given to others.

### **System monitoring**

Users expressly waive any right of privacy in anything they create, store, send or receive on the Loreto Clonmel Office 365 system. The school can monitor

messages, emails, usage or any files stored or accessed on an individual's O365 accounts without prior notification. If there is evidence that you are not adhering to the guidelines set out in this policy, there may be further actions and consequences.

**Duration of office 365 account**

All students will have access to their Loreto Clonmel Office 365 account while enrolled in the school. When a student leaves Loreto Secondary School Clonmel their Office 365 account will be disabled and deleted. A student will not have access to emails or files stored on this system once they leave the school. It is the students' responsibility to ensure all files and information they require is copied from this system before they leave the school. Loreto Secondary School Clonmel will not be able to recover any files or information that was stored on the system once the account is deleted.

The Internet is an insecure network with no guarantee of either privacy or confidentiality for its users. Information posted on the Internet is available to a global audience. Students should not post on the Internet any personal information such as home address, telephone numbers, contact details, or other personal information about themselves or any other person.

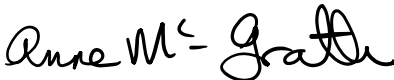
***Behave online as you would in person.***

**Acceptance of the School Code of Behaviour implies acceptance of this Policy.**

This policy was agreed on the date noted below.

Signed:   
Ms. Mary Ryan, Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 25/05/2022

Signed:   
Ms. Anne Mc Grath, Principal

Date: 25/05/2022