

Carriglea NS Code of Conduct for Children's Sport/Activities in Our School

Teachers and adults interacting with children in school sport/activities must do so with integrity and respect for the child.

All adult actions in sport/activities should be guided by what is best for the child.

Children's sport/activities must be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.

Our teachers have an overall responsibility to take the steps necessary to ensure that positive and healthy experiences in sport/activities are provided for the pupils in their care.

All children in our school are treated in an equitable and fair manner, regardless of age, ability, sex, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Teachers are always mindful of pupil safety, both individually and collectively, in sports/activity participation. If a teacher excludes a pupil from a particular sports activity, for good safety reasons, it is not to be regarded as being contrary to the school ethos of integration and inclusion.

Guidelines for Teachers/Coaches/Parents

Carriglea N.S. is committed to providing a safe and fair environment for all participating in sport. Our **teachers'** first priority is the welfare of their pupils, and we are committed to providing an environment which allows participants in our school's sporting activities to perform to the best of their ability, free from bullying and intimidation. The school has a duty of care for **coaches** working with pupils on behalf of the school to:

- be a role model for children, and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with children, parents, officials and organisers
- encourage children to play by the rules
- always behave responsibly on the sidelines and not seek to unfairly affect the game or sport
- take care not to expose any player, intentionally or unintentionally, to embarrassment or disparagement by the use of flippant or sarcastic remarks
- respect referees, coaches, organisers, and other players
- not publicly question the judgement or honesty of referees, coaches or organisers
- teach children that honest endeavour is as important as winning, and do all they can to encourage good sportsmanship
- set a good example by applauding good play on both sides
- encourage mutual respect for team-mates and opponents.

Parents should support all efforts to remove abusive and bullying behaviour in all its forms:

- Child to Child - including physical aggression, verbal bullying, intimidation, or isolation;
- Adult to Child - including the use of repeated gestures or expressions of a threatening or intimidatory nature, or any comment intended to degrade the child;
- Adult to Adult - including verbal aggression towards other adults,(teachers/coaches) in order to achieve a beneficial outcome for own self or own child;

- Child to Adult - including repeated gestures or expressions of a threatening or intimidatory nature by an individual child or a group of children.

Teachers have the ultimate duty of care to ensure that all coaches/selectors/team managers working with the school have as their first priority the children's safety and enjoyment of the sport, and adhere to the guidelines and regulations set out.

DES Circular 40/97 - Assaults on Teachers

Circular 40/97 emphasises the necessity to create and maintain a culture where acts of violence are not tolerated and where incidents when they do occur are effectively and speedily dealt with.

Creating such a climate requires the cooperation of the whole community. However, where in a minority of cases parents do not abide by the agreed procedures the circular offers little practical assistance in how to proceed.

Circular 40/97 focuses on:

- The board's duty to provide a safe place of work for employees
- Measures to be taken to prevent or minimise the risk of assaults to teachers or other staff employed in schools
- Measures to be taken in support of staff who have been assaulted or threatened with assault; and ensuring that appropriate action is taken to safeguard against a recurrence.

Where an assault occurs, the following steps as outlined in Circular 40/97 should be taken:

- (i) The incident should be immediately reported to the principal teacher/other colleague.

The details of the incident should be recorded in an Incident Book kept for this purpose in the workplace. Situations in which members have been intimidated or threatened with physical violence should also be recorded.

- (ii) Where necessary immediate medical assistance should be sought.
- (iii) The matter should be reported to the *Gardaí*, where appropriate. This report would normally be made by the teacher who was assaulted.
- (iv) The Board of Management should be notified of the incident and where necessary an emergency meeting of the Board should take place. The Board should notify its legal advisors of the assault. The Board's insurance company should also be notified.
- (v) Where the assault is by a pupil the matter should be dealt with in accordance with the school's Code of Discipline and as provided for in Rule 130(5) of the Rules for National Schools.
- (vi) Repeatedly aggressive pupils should be referred, with the consent of parents, for psychological assessment in order to assess the pupils' social and emotional needs and to determine how these can be best met.
- (vii) Where the assault is committed by a parent/guardian, the parent/guardian should be immediately instructed in writing not to make direct contact with the teacher/school pending full consideration of the matter by the Board. Subsequently the Board should correspond with the parent/ guardian stating:
- that the Board considers the assault unacceptable
 - what action the Board intends to take
 - outlining what pre-conditions should be met before access to the school is restored.
- (viii) Applications for leave of absence, in relation to a member who has been assaulted, should be forwarded to Primary Payments Section, Department of Education, Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. Each application will be assessed on its merits. (It should be noted that paid assault leave will only be granted when a teacher's entitlement to paid sick leave has been exhausted)
- (ix) Where an employee's personal property is damaged in the course of an assault, compensation for its replacement value may be paid by the Board of Management under the extended school Protection Policy.

Coaches must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every child, and must treat everyone equally, regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion or ability.

A coach must act as a role model, promote the positive aspects of sport, and maintain the highest standards of personal conduct.

Good Practice Guidelines

- always working in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging an open environment, e.g. no secrets)
- treating all pupils equally, with respect and dignity
- always putting the welfare of each child first, before winning or achieving goals
- maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with sports participants
- fun and enjoyable
- fair play

Parents are Responsible for:

- encouraging their child to play by the rules
- respecting their child and teaching them that they can only do their best
- insisting that their child shows respect for coaches and others involved in sports activities
- behaving responsibly on the sideline
- showing respect and appreciation for teachers and coaches involved in their child's sporting activities
- accepting their child's ability
- Be responsible for their children prior to the school bell at 8:50 am each morning.

- Be on time to collect their children when school finishes.
- Not approaching or reprimand another persons child on school premises
- Responsible when delivering children to matches/practices
- Be on time when child finishes

This list is not exhaustive and is by no means definitive.

Chairperson:Conor Blackwell

Date: June 2022