



Scoil Dara

Draft Detention Policy (2019)

As identified in the Scoil Dara Code of Behaviour detention is one of the interventions employed by Scoil Dara to ensure discipline and the wellbeing of students and staff.

The Code of Behaviour, as a body of guiding principles and statement of agreed procedures, aims to;

- Be fair, reasonable, effective and consistent.
- Create a positive learning environment where learning and teaching takes place in a safe, focused and structured environment.
- Recognise, reward and encourage all positive efforts, contributions and achievements of students.
- Outline the school community's response to behaviours which disrupt the teaching and learning environment and which impact upon the learning opportunities of other students.
- Promote a caring environment within which students are encouraged to manage themselves and develop positive life skills and learning habits.
- Acknowledge the importance of our partnership with parents in helping to encourage and shape the positive attitudes of our students. The complimentary supports of school and home encourages students in the development of self-esteem, self-discipline, and fosters a spirit of responsible citizenship.

Non compliance with agreed school policy, particularly relating to the following, may result in a detention;

- Behaviour
- Punctuality
- Other serious breaches of school rules.

Punctuality

- Students are required to be on time for school each day. Students should be present at their appointed classroom at 9am with all relevant materials.
- Students arriving to school late must present to reception to sign-in:
 - In the case of an explained late arrival, a note – signed by a parent/guardian – must be submitted at reception.
 - The time of arrival is noted and initialed in their journal.
 - Students must present this record in their journal to the class teacher on arrival to the class.
 - Students arriving late without a note from parent/guardian will receive a late stamp (time and initialed) at reception

- Students must present this record in their journal to the class teacher on arrival to the class.

The sanction for an unexplained late is a morning detention

- Parents will receive a text from the school office informing them of their son/daughters unexplained late arrival to school and of the associated sanction - detention on the subsequent Monday, Wednesday or Friday.
- The detention will commence at 8.15am and finish at 8.45am.

Behaviour

- Teachers have primary responsibility for student discipline and the maintenance of a positive and safe classroom environment. Teachers will address disruptive behavior which impacts negatively on the learning of other students this behavior in a measured and appropriate manner. Teachers will also address inadequate work and application to work.
- Late arrival to class (within the school day), failure to meet assignment deadlines, to complete home-learning or to bring appropriate materials to class will result in class-based sanctions.
- In line with the Code of Behaviour teachers may:
 - appoint additional class/homework
 - inform parent/guardians through a note in the student journal/phone-call
 - detain students
 - inform class tutor/Year Head
- Having consulted parents class teachers may detain students at lunch-time/ before/ after school. This form of sanction will be recorded on e-portal under the entry “Phone call/meeting with parents” as well as a note in the student’s journal.
- Year Heads will monitor e-portal records and in consultation with the class tutor and Detention Co-ordinator the student lists for after-school detention will be determined.
- Where a student receives an afterschool detention the relevant Year Head will schedule a review meeting to discuss expectations and targets.
- After school detention is reserved for **persistent or serious one-off breaches of the school Code of Behaviour**. In both cases the sanction is designed to address behaviour choices which show disregard for and defiance of the Scoil Dara Code of Behaviour and the values of respect, safety and inclusive engagement that our community promotes.

Procedures for After-School Detention

- Year Heads will forward the list of students for detention to the Detention Co-ordinator and the Deputy Principals by 11am on Friday.
- Letters informing the pupils, parents/guardians of the pending detention is posted and confirmation of attendance returned to the Detention Coordinator on the day indicated.
- Detention will last for one hour on a Thursday evening.

- During the detention the student must undertake school related work (written work, note making, revision, reading, mind-mapping, sketching, planning) or work assigned to them by the supervisor.
- Late arrival to detention will be recorded and this information is passed onto the relevant year head. Co-operation with the process of detention and the expectations around work/learning is required and failure to meet the terms of detention may result in a re-call to detention the following week. Disruption to detention may result in further disciplinary sanctions in consultation with the relevant Year Head.
- Detention is considered effective if it results in a change in the behaviour for which the student was detained. Detention is envisaged as a one-off sanction which provides students with a very clear message regarding a negative behavior and provides them with a very specific opportunity to reflect on that behaviour. If this sanction proves ineffective in altering behaviour the relevant Year Head in consultation with the Deputy Principals will consider further interventions in line with the Code of Behaviour (meeting with parent(s)/guardian(s), report-card, internal-suspension, external suspension, etc.)
- After a second detention the relevant Year Head will make contact with parents/guardians to discuss the student's continuing poor choice of behaviour. Any subsequent serious breach of behaviour will result in an internal suspension/external suspension (depending on the nature of the breaches and other contributing circumstances).
- Should a student fail to present for detention the Detention Co-ordinator will inform the Year Head. Parents/Guardians will be notified by the Year Head and the student will be required to attend the subsequent detention. A failure to attend this second detention will result in an external suspension processed in line with the Code of Behaviour.
- The Detention Coordinator in collaboration with the year head team will report on the system on an annual basis (at the end of the school year) and evaluate its efficacy and efficiency. The Detention Co-ordinator will survey staff on same/ get feedback from the staff. The Detention Policy will be reviewed annually.