

# Policy on children who abscond

From time to time, children for different reasons run from the supervision of staff. This is a serious situation for the school where there is a duty of care for the child. The Board of Management cannot condone this behaviour and exhorts parents whose children use this behaviour to speak firmly to the child.

- Every effort will be made to ensure that children do not leave the supervision of staff.
- If a child does run despite staff efforts, staff will make every effort to encourage the child to return to the staff member. The child will be reminded of consequences.
- A child will be shadowed only if the staff considers him/her to be a danger to himself and others or is engaging in dangerous activities within the grounds or outside the gate. Staff will intervene as necessary up to and including calling the Gardai.

## **A child will be considered to be in danger**

- If the child is considered to be unable to cope without an adult.

## **When a child runs**

- The class teacher will be informed.
- The principal will be informed.
- Parents/Guardians will be informed through the homework book if the child remains on the grounds.
- Parents/Guardians will be informed if the child is engaged in dangerous activity i.e. on the roof/ leaves the grounds while on the run.
- Parents/guardian will be informed as soon as the child returns.
- The Principal will inform by radio all classes if a child is absconded.
- The Gardai will be informed if the student leaves the premises.

**Please note Children who continue to engage in aggressive or dangerous activity will be removed from the premises by the Gardai.**

## **The following sanctions will be in place for children who run. (internally and externally)**

- All children who run will lose their shoes for 5 days.
- 0 -15 minutes: make up time during another class.
- 15 – 30 minutes: Child will make up time during detention.
- 30 minutes +: If other classes or students are disrupted as a result of a child absconding, this will result in the child making up time after school.
- In the event of after-school detention, the principal will be given the child's name and staff on duty.
- After school detention will take place as soon as possible, preferably the day of disruption.
- Parents/Guardian will be informed of decision by phone. Where necessary, negotiation about the day will take place.
- 2 staff members will provide after school detention for the duration of up to one hour.
- An adequate academic programme of work will be provided by the class teacher for the entire make up time.