

St Kilian's Secondary School

Detention Policy



1. Detention is one of the educational measures employed by the school to ensure discipline and the wellbeing of staff and students. In the school's Code of Behaviour, Detention is placed between the Written Reprimand and Suspension:

Detention

After three entries in the E-Portal system within a period of three months, the pupil concerned is may be detained by the Postholder. Any other serious breach of school rules may also be penalised with an Immediate Detention at the request of the Year Head, Deputy Principal or Principal. A detention may last for two hours and is to take place outside normal school hours. During the detention the pupil is to work. The work should be pedagogically meaningful. Date and time of the detention are entered into a list in the staff room and notified to the pupil's parents/guardians in writing a week in advance. Parents are encouraged to discuss the pupil's problems with teachers, Class Teacher or Year Head.

2. Offences that can lead to a Detention are persistent breaches of the school rules, or one off breaches deemed serious enough to warrant a Detention. A Detention can be accumulative, after three entries on the card, or Immediate, for more serious one off offences.

Accumulative offences are for example:

- Homework repeatedly not produced,
- Repeatedly disruptive behaviour in class,
- Books or other materials repeatedly not produced in class,
- Not completing punishment work,
- Lying to teachers or supervisors.

This list is not exhaustive. It is the teacher's discretion to decide whether an offence warrants an entry on the card.

Serious offences are:

- Leaving the school grounds without permission,
- Mithing class,
- Offensive or dangerous behaviour,
- Refusal to carry out instructions given by a teacher or supervisor

This list is not exhaustive. Again it is at the teacher's discretion to classify an offence. As a rule, serious offences are sanctioned with an **Immediate Detention** by the Year Head, Deputy Principal or Principal.

3. Detention is considered effective if it results in a change of behaviour in the student detained. A change of behaviour is evident if the student is not detained repeatedly.

4. If no change of behaviour becomes evident, the school must consider further options in terms of the Code of Behaviour. Among these are Suspension, Threat of Expulsion and Expulsion.

4.1. If a student has received three Detentions during one school year, the awarding of a fourth Detention will generally be regarded as a possible indicator of the educational measure having failed. A consultation process is initiated involving the Post-holder responsible for the administration of the Detention scheme, the class teacher, the Year Head, or the Deputy Principal/Principal to discuss. Either one of these will contact the student's parents or guardian to inform them of the school's view that Detention has failed to correct behaviour and to advise them of an escalation of sanctions in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour should a 4th detention be warranted. In the event of a fourth Detention being considered or issued parents will be invited to meet with the Year Head/Deputy Principal to discuss their child's behaviour and the issue of a potentially more serious sanction if necessary.

4.2. The views expressed by the parents/guardians will be noted. The meeting will be recorded in writing:

- Invitation
- Time and place of the meeting
- Attendance record
- Minutes of parents'/guardians' views

A decision will be taken following this meeting. It will be recorded in writing as outlined below:

- Decision taken by the relevant staff (see Code of Behaviour) with reasons given
- Signed by Year Head/Class teacher and/or Principal/Deputy Principal

4.3. The results will be communicated to the parents/guardians in writing by the Class Teacher and or Year Head. The communication will refer to the parents'/guardians' right to appeal the decision to the Principal and to the Board of Management successively.

5. Detention can take place on a Saturday morning from 9am to 11am or on Friday afternoon from 1.15pm to 3.15pm.

Students who arrive late for Detention will be detained for that amount of time at the next Detention. If a student does not complete the work assigned during Detention s/he must repeat that Detention.

6. The Post-holder responsible for Detention will report on the system at the end of the school year and evaluate its efficiency together with the members of the school management mentioned in 5.1. S/He will invite the staff to submit their views, and the Policy will be discussed at the first Staff Conference at the beginning of the new school year.

The Policy will be deemed efficient if it manages to reduce the number of Detentions to such a degree that

- no more than one Detention is offered per month (on average),
- and no more than one Detention group of fewer than 30 students needs to be convened at any one time.

7. A parent, or a student over the age of 18 years, may appeal by notice in writing to the Principal a decision to impose a detention within 5 days of the issuance of same. An appeal must specify the procedural grounds upon which the appeal is made. The decision of the Principal is final. Where the original decision to issue the detention was taken by the Principal, the appeal may be directed to the Chair of the Board of Management, who will arrange a suitable basis for an appeal, after which the decision of the Chair is final.

Posted on the school website

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