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PARTICIPATION IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION POLICY

The following policy was developed through a collaborative approach involving senior management and the Physical Education Department of Clonkeen College.

Aims

1. To create a school ethos that encourages students to participate in Physical Education classes and extra-curricular activities
2. To raise awareness of the value of participation in physical activity in the student body, teaching staff, management and parents/guardians
3. To establish procedures for reporting and recording incidents of non-participation in Physical Education
4. To establish procedures for dealing with incidents of non-participation in Physical Education classes
5. To evaluate the effectiveness of the policy regularly

Statement on Physical Education in Clonkeen College

The place which we give to Physical Education in our school is vitally important. We are committed to supporting pupils in every aspect of their life and development. Quality work and participation to the best of pupils' abilities is the target for everyone. We see Physical Education as an outlet to support and facilitate students' confident, enjoyable and informed participation in physical activity, fostering values of fitness, knowledge, skill and pleasure.

Rationale for a Participation Policy

The aim of this policy is to address the issue of non-participation in so far as it constitutes behaviour which is directly opposed to the achievement of the school mission statement, and the aforementioned statement on Physical Education.

It is important that all students participate to the best of their ability in all PE classes.

In order to optimise the time for maximum participation; Students who state they cannot participate and who bring in notes excusing them from participation have a negative effect on theirs, and their peers' learning experience. This results in a reduced amount of learning and participation time for the majority of

students who are prepared for full participation in the class. It leads to off task behaviour and issues with supervision.

The purpose of our participation policy is to encourage full participation by all students in Physical Education and where necessary take action, in keeping with the school's Code of Behaviour, that will endeavour to ensure that all students fully participate in Physical Education.

Clonkeen College Physical Education Pupil Participation Policy

- All students must participate in PE class to the best of their ability.
- Participation, regardless of ability or manner, is mandatory in Physical Education classes. Students are encouraged to work collaboratively with each other and the teacher. We believe that every student has something to offer to any given experience. Through their participation, students can recognise and appreciate peers' individuality, to work with it, and enhance their learning experience.
- All students should arrive with a suitable PE uniform. This includes runners, tracksuit-bottoms or shorts, a T-shirt and a tracksuit top. Outdoor football boots should be worn when students are engaging in activities on the sports field.
- Rain gear should also be included, particularly over the typically wetter and colder months of the school calendar. Classes will continue as scheduled regardless of weather conditions unless otherwise stated.
- If a student has an illness (common cold, sore throat, etc.) or injury which reduces his ability to participate, he must still get changed and participate to the best of their ability. If he is too ill to do this then he should not be in school. If a student has a specific illness which requires non-participation then he must bring in his PE uniform and a note from his parent/guardian, alongside a medical cert stating the nature of the illness and prescribed treatment.
- If a student has an injury, he must bring in his PE uniform and a note from his parent/guardian, alongside a medical cert stating the nature of the injury and prescribed treatment. The student can still participate in whatever elements of the class that are suitable, particularly the low impact parts of the warm-up and the elements of the class which focus on flexibility. This can prove beneficial to the student, as the PE teacher can take the opportunity to advise the student on exercises which will help in the rehabilitation of the injury or on stretches suitable for preventing the injury re-occurring in the future. The PE teachers will modify their lesson or prescribe an activity so that, if possible, a suitable participatory role will be given to the student with the injury.
- If the student feels physically uncomfortable during part of the class, he will be prescribed a low to moderate intensity activity or role. For instance, he will then engage in a more theoretical based lesson, usually by observing and recording information about the relevant topic being covered in class, or encouraged to focus on activity which will prevent further injury and promote rehabilitation.
- If a student has an injury, that is accompanied by a note from their parent/guardian and a medical cert, that makes it unsafe for him to participate in the PE class then the student will participate in learning about the theory elements of the activity being covered in PE class. This may be achieved by reading and taking notes from a work sheet given to them by the PE teacher. The student may be required to present the notes to the teacher at the end of the class for inspection, and must then file the notes away safely.

Procedures for Non Participation

- Non - participation without written parental and medical evidence will result in sanctions. These sanctions are at the discretion of the teacher and in line with the Code of Behaviour
- In incidents of non-participation, the pupil is still expected to contribute to the class in some manner. This will be determined by the teacher. For instance, a pupil may be asked to help with equipment or working with other pupils as a vocal contributor to the activity in which they are participating.
- In the event of continued non-participation, the student in question will receive further sanctions in keeping with the Code of Behaviour, such as a warning from the Year Head/Form tutor, detention(s) and potentially, suspension or exclusion.

Special Cases

Students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

All teachers have access to a SEN registrar at the start of every academic year. All PE teachers will consult with this document in order to become aware of students who might need extra attention during PE classes. When Individual Education Plans (IEP's) are in place, these will also be consulted. The general school policy is to be as inclusive as possible in the teaching of all students, including those with SEN. This policy will also be followed by the PE department. Students with co-ordination and physical difficulties, such as dyspraxia, will be assessed for co-ordination skills in line with the PE schedule, and if results deem necessary, will be given advice on how to improve in this area. A differentiated PE program will be devised for some students while completing some activities. In cases when full integration is more suitable, this strategy will be pursued. Communication links will be maintained with the SEN department in identifying and monitoring progress.