Ministerial Order determining Rules Governing the Code of Conduct of Headmasters, Teachers and Students

Contents

Chapter One – General provisions ................................................................................................................................................................ 1
  Article One – Purpose of a Order .......................................................................................................................................................... 1
  Article 2 – Definition of terms ................................................................................................................................................................ 1

Chapter II – Conduct .......................................................................................................................................................................................... 1
  Section One – Conduct of a Headmaster ............................................................................................................................................ 1
    Article 3 – Conduct of a Headmaster ............................................................................................................................................ 1
  Section 2 – Conduct of a teacher .......................................................................................................................................................... 2
    Article 4 – Conduct of a teacher with regard to the profession .......................................................................................... 2
    Article 5 – Conduct of a teacher with regard to the students ............................................................................................. 2
    Article 6 – Conduct of a teacher with regard to colleagues ................................................................................................. 2
    Article 7 – Conduct of a teacher with regard to the employer ............................................................................................... 3
    Article 8 – Conduct of a teacher with regard to parents .......................................................................................................... 3
    Article 9 – Conduct of a teacher with regard to the community ......................................................................................... 3
  Section 3 – Students conduct .................................................................................................................................................................. 3
    Article 10 – Required values for students ............................................................................................................................... 3
    Article 11 – Prohibited students’ behaviour .............................................................................................................................. 3

Chapter III – Final provisions ......................................................................................................................................................................... 4
  Article 12 – Repealing provision ............................................................................................................................................................ 4
  Article 13 – Commencement .................................................................................................................................................................. 4
The Minister of Education;

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003 as revised in 2015, especially in Articles 121, 122 and 176;

Pursuant to Law n° 23/2012 of 15/06/2012 governing the organization and functioning of Nursery, Primary and Secondary Education, especially in Article 3;

After consideration and approval by the Cabinet, in its session of 14/05/2015;

HEREBY ORDERS:

Chapter One
General provisions

Article One – Purpose of a Order

This Order determines rules regulating code of conduct of Headmasters, teachers and students in nursery, primary and secondary schools of general education.

Article 2 – Definition of terms

Under this Order, the following terms have the following definitions:

1° headmaster: any person exercising the function of heading a nursery, primary or secondary school;

2° teacher: any person who performs the function of a dean of studies, discipline master or teach;

3° student: any person enrolled in a nursery, primary or a secondary school to attend lessons.

Chapter II
Conduct

Section One – Conduct of a Headmaster

Article 3 – Conduct of a Headmaster

The Headmaster must:

1° be the promoter and pillar of quality development in school education;
2° promote the integral development of persons under his/her supervision;
3° ensure that school records contain accurate information and are safely kept;
4° not conceal any act of misconduct committed by a member of staff or by any student of the school, whether committed within or outside the school;
5° avoid abusing his/her powers for own interests;
6° promote justice and avoid any form of discrimination or favoritism;
7° respect work related laws and regulations and ensure that they are respected by persons under his/her responsibility.

Section 2 – Conduct of a teacher

Article 4 – Conduct of a teacher with regard to the profession

With regard to the teaching profession, a teacher must:
1° advocate professional autonomy and strive to create a favourable working environment;
2° preserve the ethics characterizing the teaching profession;
3° regularly improve professional knowledge and development;
4° demonstrate a good image of the teaching profession in relations with the others.

Article 5 – Conduct of a teacher with regard to the students

Regarding students, a teacher must:
1° be responsible for the provision of quality education;
2° promote a favourable environment for teaching and learning;
3° provide to all students with equitable learning opportunities without any discrimination;
4° help students to identify and respect the Rwandan values;
5° encourage students to think independently and form their own judgments based on knowledge;
6° teach students to respect the opinions of others in case of a debate on a given topic;
7° help students to keep clean their bodies, uniforms, tools and wherever they are;
8° instill in students the spirit of excellence in their achievements;
9° not abuse the position held to engage students in acts for own interests;
10° be a role model.

Article 6 – Conduct of a teacher with regard to colleagues

Regarding colleagues, a teacher must:
1° treat them with respect without discrimination;
2° co-operate with them in the interests of students;
3° be supportive to them in performing their professional responsibilities and encourage them to develop their potentials;
4° share with them ideas and information to enhance professional development;
5° promote harmonious relations and avoid misunderstanding between them;
6° be objective and constructive when giving advice or guidance.

**Article 7 – Conduct of a teacher with regard to the employer**

Regarding the employer, a teacher must respect employer’s instruction as long as they comply with laws.

**Article 8 – Conduct of a teacher with regard to parents**

Regarding parents, a teacher must:
1° respect parental rights of enquiry, consultation and information with regard to their children;
2° seek to establish friendly and co-operative relationships with the parents;
3° respect the uniqueness and characteristics of each student’s family background and treat in confidence any information regarding private family matters;
4° assist parents to protect the fundamental rights of their children including education;
5° act as parent of the child while at school.

**Article 9 – Conduct of a teacher with regard to the community**

Regarding the community, a teacher must:
1° co-operate with them in the educational needs of their children
2° set exemplary life in accomplishing civic obligations;
3° be concerned with community development.

**Section 3 – Students conduct**

**Article 10 – Required values for students**

The important values of code of conduct for students shall be the following:
1° being characterized by politeness everywhere they are;
2° self dignity;
3° respect of school authorities, teachers, parents and fellow students;
4° proper maintenance of school equipment, their own property as well as those of their peers;
5° knowledge and respect of the school rules;
6° paying attention to the cleanliness of their body, their uniforms and their tools wherever they are.

**Article 11 – Prohibited students’ behaviour**

Each student must abstain from any of the following specific acts relating to a crime:
1° use and consumption of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and any other thing that may damage health;
2° stealing or damaging the property of others;
3° sexual relations, prostitution or vagabondage;
4° lack of respect, insults, intimidation or fighting;
5° divisionism, discrimination, persecution or violence.

Chapter III
Final provisions

Article 12 – Repealing provision
All prior provisions contrary to this Order are hereby repealed.

Article 13 – Commencement
This Order shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda.