

These are some of the school rules that we found during our research. They have been taken from a 300-year old book and have rules for all people who were at the school, from the Governors to the children.

How do these rules compare to the ones you have in your classroom today?

Read through these rules and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and discuss what meaningful rules you might write for your classroom and create your own class charter.

The Governors

1. The Governors to meet at the Hospital (the school) every Tuesday evening at 5 o'clock and to stay no longer than nine.
2. That at every meeting they begin and end with a collection and the Lord's Prayer.
3. That during the Governors' meeting they discuss of no other business but what relates to the Hospital.

The Matron

4. She shall take care that the provisions are duly distributed to the children according to the bill of fare appointed by the Governors.
5. She shall have the immediate care of all the children's dinner.

The Spinner

6. They shall take care of the children in their respective work and make sure they daily perform their several tasks and make good work.
7. They shall take care to reel and make up the yarn spun by the children.

In relation to the Children

8. The parents of the poor children in the Hospital shall not be admitted to visit their children in their house, except Sunday evening, unless in case of sickness.
9. The children shall walk decently two by two to church every Sunday and the Holy Days appointed them with their master, nurses and monitors shall be appointed to inspect their behaviour.
10. No child shall be admitted on the foundation who, upon enquiry, is not found to have a settlement in their parish. To be a real object of charity and such shall produce a certificate that they are seven years of age and bring with them their apparel on their admittance.

Parents of such children shall then agree that the Governors shall have the entire liberty of disposing them when they go to apprentices.

11. When any children are bound apprentices they shall be allowed each a new suit different from the Hospital apparel and the Hospital clothes to be reserved for those children who fill their vacancy.

As to the Master Steward, Matron and Servants

12. After morning prayers one third part of the working children shall immediately be taught by the master in School for an hour and half and then all the children shall go to Breakfast for half an hour. After breakfast, another third part of those children shall learn for an hour and half and the remaining part be taught in like manner so there will be constantly two third parts at work and one at school.

13. Children who do not work be constantly in the school during the school hours.

14. As of the children's learning they shall be taught to read every day to spell two days in the week and their religious education on two other days weekly.