

# SCHOOL DRUG POLICY

## Introduction

- **Purpose/Objectives**

- Develop and deliver a Drugs Education Programme.
- Formulate a framework for managing incidents of drugs misuse.
- Increase awareness of the risks associated with misuse of alcohol

- **Definition of Drugs**

For the purpose of this policy drugs are defined as illicit drugs and alcohol.

**Note:** "Illicit Drugs" includes all illegal drugs, solvents and magic mushrooms. This list is not exhaustive.

## Policy For Drug Related Incident

- **Introductory Statement**

The possession, use or supply of illicit drugs are viewed as unacceptable by this school. Should an incident relating to any of these matters occur, it is the policy of this school to respond in a firm but fair manner, with due regard to any legal obligations that apply.

- **When And To Whom Policy Applies**

This policy applies to all students, staff and other users of the school premises (including parents, visitors and those attending evening classes). It is in force at all times on the school premises, during school time and during school related activities (including school tours).

- **Lines Of Reporting**

- Students are encouraged to report any drug related incident to a member of the teaching staff. Staff report all drug related incidents to the Principal or person in charge who will inform the Year Head and other staff as appropriate.
- Written records will be kept of incidents in breach of this policy.
- Parents will be notified at the earliest opportunity if their daughter is involved in a drug-related incident.
- In incidents involving the supply of illegal drugs, it is the policy of this school to inform Gardai. Garda advice may also be sought about other incidents on a case-by-case basis. This decision will rest with the Principal and other key staff.

- **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed to students regarding information relating to incidents in breach of this policy. The limits of confidentiality will be explained to the student prior to disclosure where this is possible.

- **Sanctions / Disciplinary Issues**

A graded system of firm and consistent sanctions will apply to students involved in drug-related incidents. Sanctions including suspension or expulsion may be imposed depending on the seriousness of the incident. In cases of repeated serious misbehaviour and in the case of sale of illegal drugs, expulsion will be recommended.

- **Counselling / Support Of Those Involved**

Students directly involved in illicit drug incidents will be seen by the School Counsellor, who may refer to specialist external agencies if deemed appropriate.

Students, parents or other members of the school community who wish to speak to someone about their own drug use or that of a person they are concerned about, are invited to approach the Principal, Year Head, School Counsellor or a member of staff. Where voluntary, such disclosures are seen as a desire to seek help and will therefore not be subject to disciplinary consequences, but will be subject to the confidentiality policy outlined above.

## **Procedures**

- **First Aid Procedure**

- Teachers should be prepared to deal with a drugs related emergency by calling on a trained First-Aider, if available and calling for professional help.

- **Handling illegal substance**

- If an illegal substance is found it should be stored securely by staff member(s) while Gardai are called to come and collect it. Two staff members should be present during such procedures.

- **Search**

This school retains the right to search any part of school property if there is reasonable cause to believe a substance in breach of this policy may be contained therein. Students will be given the option to volunteer the substance prior to search.

Where there is reasonable cause to believe a student has on her person or in her possession a substance in breach of this policy, she will be asked to volunteer the substance. If she refuses, the Gardai may be called in to conduct the search. Two staff members must be present during any form of search.

## **Dissemination of Policy**

The School will endeavour to ensure that all existing and incoming students, their parents and all teaching and non-teaching staff, are informed about the policy.

- **The Drugs Education Programme**

Aim of the programme is to give young people the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate these to their own actions both now and in their future lives.

### **The Programme will be delivered as follows**

- \* **Junior Cycle** - S.P.H.E, Religious Education, Science and Home Economics classes.
- \* **Transition Year** - S.P.H.E classes.
- \* **Senior Cycle** - Religious Education, Biology, and Home Economics classes.
- \* **Visiting Speakers** - Planned and integrated contributions from visitors and outside speakers and agencies, which compliment the school's approach and values, may add to the range of the programme.
- \* **Parents**  
We will endeavour to offer a drugs awareness programme to parents when possible and parents will be encouraged to participate.

### **Monitoring, Review, Evaluation of Policy**

The policy will be monitored to ensure it is implemented and is effective.

The policy will be subject to regular review. The review will be organised by the Principal.