

Tag:/Re: Substance Use Policy

Substance Use Policy

Introductory Statement

This policy is applicable to all students, staff, parents and users of the school building during school time and during all school related activities. It is also applicable to any events/occasions that happen in the school outside of school time.

Relationship to School's Mission/Vision/Aims

School's Philosophy

This policy will help the school to:

- Create a peaceful, organised, sensitive, happy and safe environment where the child's intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual development will be looked after
- Ensure that Irish is the main language of the learning process, both as the language of instruction and the language of communication.
- Place a special emphasis on the Irish culture
- Develop a positive attitude to learning amongst pupils and to enable them to work independently
- Promote positive, healthy, safe and responsible behaviour always
- Create an atmosphere in the school that encourages the pupil to be independent, tolerant, kind, confident and co-operative
- Promote parents' participation in the co-educating of their children by giving them opportunities to participate in the promotion and the development of the school through the Parents' Association and through the Board of Management
- Cater for all needs in the school community in a similar manner (pupils, teachers and parents) in all aspects of school life

School's Vision

The Education Act 1998 provides that schools should promote the social and personal development of students and provide health education for them. In support of this, we believe that the school has a role to play in helping the pupils become aware of how to control and take responsibility for their own health. Gaelscoil Moshíológ intend to:

- Provide a safe and healthy environment

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- Promote positive, responsible and safe behaviour always
- Increase the pupils' information regarding their own health
- Develop the pupils' self-confidence and self-respect
- Develop good interpersonal skills
- Emphasise listening so that pupils will be enabled to listen carefully and in an understanding manner
- Cater appropriately for all areas of the curriculum: Irish and English; Maths; Social, Environmental and Scientific Education; Arts Education; Physical Education; Social, Personal and Health Educations; and Religious Education.
- Seek behaviour of a high standard by ensuring that pupils are always polite and well-mannered to other pupils, to other teachers and to visitors, so that there will be a nice, co-operative atmosphere in the school (Please see the Code of Behaviour)
- Ensure that pupils fulfil their ability and their full potential
- Create a place where pupils can express themselves through different mediums: music, sport, art, dance, drama etc.

Rationale

Following members of school management staff attending in-service in SPHE and the importance of this policy in the context of the SPHE course this Substance Use policy was drawn up. Gaelscoil Moshíológ understands the importance of this policy in the context of the SPHE curriculum. The following points were included when this policy was being drafted:

- The National Drugs Strategy, 'Building on Experience' is now Government Policy and it requires schools to have a substance use policy in place
- The world in which we live presents young people with many challenges which affect their health and well-being. Schools need to develop a common understanding of the term 'drug', develop a unified approach to answer questions related to drugs and to deal with problems of substance misuse in the correct manner in accordance with legislative responsibilities.
- The Education Act 1998 provides that schools should promote the social and personal development of students and provide health education for them
- A report 'Prevention of Drug Use' published by the National consultative Committee on Drugs shows the importance of developing a drugs policy in schools.

Aims of the Policy

- To ensure the life and care of all young people as stated in the Education Act (1998) (agus in the amended Education Act (2000).
- To ensure that legislative requirements and principles of good practice are followed
- To enrich the SPHE programme with regard to education and protection
- To decrease the dangers associated with children and substance use as well as the dangers associated with drug use in schools/in the community
- To correctly monitor any incidents associated with drug use

- To support parents and pupils with drug use

Definition of a Drug

A drug is any chemical which alters how the body works, or how the person behaves or feels.

Policy Content

The policy content is divided into three sections:

1. Education concerning substance abuse
2. Management of alcohol, tobacco and drug related incidents
3. Provision for training and staff development

1. Education concerning Substance Abuse

It is accepted amongst educationalists that education about alcohol, tobacco and drugs is best carried out by teachers through the inclusion of S.P.H.E. in the curriculum. In Gaelscoil Moshíológ education about alcohol, tobacco and drugs is provided in a broad context through the SPHE programme within a whole school supportive environment. At times experts from the community will be invited to the school e.g. parents, nurse, guard, social worker, facilitator from the Department of Education/Health, when possible, to complement the work completed in class. In this case, the presentation and work of the visitor will be under the direction of the classroom teacher.

2. Management of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Related Incidents

Smoking - School Policy

- The school is a no smoking area.
- Students, members of staff, parents or visitors to the school are not permitted to smoke on the school premises.
- Students are not permitted to bring cigarettes to school, to carry them or handle them.
- Pupils found with cigarettes or smoking on school premises or in any other place that they are in the school's care will be sent to the Principal and parents will be informed.
- In order to set a positive example for the students, teachers must ensure that cigarettes are not visible to pupils on school premises. It is understood that smoking is not permitted at any school event where pupils are also in attendance.
- Visitors to the school must comply with the above rules.

Alcohol - School Policy

- Pupils will not be allowed to bring alcohol into the school or to consume alcohol in school or during school activities.
- If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of alcohol, s/he will immediately inform the Principal and consult on what action should be taken.
- Where a student comes to school under the influence of alcohol, their parents will be called immediately to take them home.

- Students breaking these rules will be dealt with according to the school's Cód Smachta.
- If a member of staff feels that a parent/guardian is under the influence of alcohol when collecting a child, the principal must be called to make a decision regarding the care of the child

Illicit Drugs and Solvents - School Policy

- Students are forbidden from being in possession of or using illicit drugs or solvents in the school premises.
- Illicit drugs found on school premises should be locked away and the Gardaí contacted to dispose of them. Teachers are advised not to transport illicit substances at any time.
- If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of illicit drugs or solvents, s/he will immediately inform the Principal and consult on what action should be taken.
- Where the school suspects trafficking of illicit drugs, an investigation will be carried out. Parents of any student involved will be informed. The advice and assistance of the Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer will be sought.
- The school Board of Management will expect parents to inform the principal or teacher if they suspect their child of drug taking.
- If a member of staff feels that a parent/guardian is under the influence of illicit drugs or solvents, when collecting a child, the principal must be called to make a decision regarding the care of the child.

Administration of Medicines – School Policy

Please see the school's First-Aid and Medicine Policy

3. Provision for Training and Staff Development

- SPHE In-Service for teachers
- The Board of Management will ensure that the staff will have opportunities to take part in first aid training on a regular basis.
- All teachers will undertake in-service course as part of their initial teacher training
- All members of staff should be made aware of the Substance Misuse Act 1977 and 1984.
- An understanding of the law regarding schools and drugs

Implementation Programme

The Walk Tall Programme will be used in the school to explore the following objectives:

- Development of a school climate and culture which values and practises respect in interpersonal relationships.
- Helping children to appreciate their worth and the worth of others.
- Helping children to take responsibilities for themselves and others.
- Paving outlets for creativity and enjoyable pursuits and activities.
- A structured programme of SPHE which has substance misuse prevention as an integral part.

- Support for vulnerable children.
- Strengthening the co-operation between school, parents and the wider community in dealing with substance misuse prevention.

Self-esteem is a core theme of the “Walk Tall” Programme and all the class programmes aim to develop the Child’s self-esteem. The child with good self-esteem is better able to resist opportunities or offers to misuse drugs, make good choices about personal safety and sustain healthy relationships. The content regarding substance use is taught from 1st class in the Walk Tall Programme.

The Walk Tall Programme (2016)

1st Class: Keeping Safe

- Rules about Medicines

2nd Class: Looking After Our Bodies

- Our Amazing Bodies
- My Heart and My Lungs
- My Brain
- My Body Needs Different Types of Food
- Too Much of a Good Thing
- Medicines are Powerful Drugs
- Injections

3rd Class: Safety and Protection

- Who made the Mistake?
- Safety Audit for the Toddler
- Growing in Responsibility
- The Risks of Smoking Cigarettes
- The Risks of Drinking Alcohol
- Sometimes Adults Need Rules

4th Class: Taking Care of my Body

- As I Grow Older I Can Learn to Look After Myself
- Clean and Healthy
- Food Choices
- Keeping my Thinking Healthy
- What is a Drug?
- The Dangers of Alcohol
- The Dangers of Solvents

5th Class: Taking Care of my Body

Section A: Health and Well-Being

- Healthy and Unhealthy Behaviour
- Dealing with Worry and Tension: Relaxation

- What is a Drug?
- Influences and Choices
- Smoking and its Effects
- Alcohol and its Effects
- Risky Substances
- Help and the Community

Safety and Protection:

- Medicines
- Managing risky Situations
- Safety with Substances
- Keeping Safe
- Preventing Accidents

6th Class: Taking Care of my Body

Section A: Health and Well-Being

- Healthy and Unhealthy behaviour
- Learning to Deal with Worry
- Reasons for Drug-Taking
- Risky Places – Risky Choices
- Dependency and Addiction
- Help and the Community

Safety and Protection

- Medicines
- Taking Risks?
- Keeping Safe
- Accident/Incident Prevention
- Care with Substances

Roles and Responsibilities

The school wishes to make clear that the primary role of substance misuse prevention rests with the parents but that the school supports them through providing education for their children in the various ways mentioned in this policy.

This policy was created as it was deemed necessary that the school have a policy regarding substance use. It was drafted in consultation with representatives from the Board of Management, teachers and parents. It will be implemented and assessed by the above parties also. It should be read in conjunction with the school's Cód Iompair policy, This policy will be available to teachers, the Board of Management, support team, Parents' Association agus any member, or any other group, who rent one of the rooms in the school. This policy will also be published on the school's website www.gaelscoilmoshiolog.com

Success Criteria

Príomhoide: Carol Scott
Príomhoide Cúnta: Caroline Ní Ghrifín

Leas-Phríomhoide: Niamh O'Sullivan
Príomhoide Cúnta: Caitríona Ní Mhurchú

We will know if this policy has been implemented successfully if:

- The teachers' preparation, planning and teaching are based on this policy.
- The approach described in this policy is used systematically.

We will know if we have reached our aims if:

- If the pupils show a sense of self-esteem and self-respect
- The pupils are developing personal responsibility
- The pupils have developed a sense of understanding in a lively, healthy manner; if they are able to willingly take part in activities that promote the healthiness of a person.
- The pupils have developed a sense of safety, how to keep themselves safe and how to protect themselves from danger.
- The pupils can make decisions, solve problems and undertake suitable actions in a personal, social or health context
- The pupils become aware and discerning to the various influences that choices and decisions have

Ratification and Communication

This policy was presented to teachers, the Parents' Association and the Board of Management. This policy was approved on 14/09/2021.

Date of Implementation

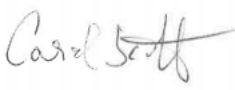
This policy will be implemented 20/09/2021.

Review

This policy will be assessed regularly and updates when necessary. This policy will be reviewed.

Sínithe: 
Chairperson

Dáta 20/09/2021

Sínithe: 
Principal

Dáta 20/09/2021

Gaelscoil Moshíológ, An Chraobhach, Bth. Charn an Bhua, Guaire, Co. Loch Garman
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