

POLICY FOR SUBSTANCE MISUSE EDUCATION PROGRAMME DRAFT 4 – March 2004

INTRODUCTION

This school is committed to addressing the needs of the whole school in relation to drugs. We believe that Teachers, Parents, Board of Management, ancillary staff and pupils need to work together and that cooperation is essential to the acceptance and implementation of the policy.

It has been agreed that a drug is: Any substance which changes the way the body functions, mentally, physically or emotionally.

This school recognises that drugs – both legal and illegal are available in the local community and that the school being part of this community will have drug incidents which need to be handled in a consistent and sensitive way.

This school also acknowledges that it is an important role to play in drugs education both in terms of prevention and offering support to those who use drugs.

The policy applies to pupils, parents, all school staff, ancillary staff and school management, visitors and all members within the school community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our School aims to provide a happy, secure, friendly, learning environment, where children, parents, teachers, special needs assistants, ancillary staff and Board of Management work in partnership. Each individual is valued, encouraged and respected for their uniqueness and facilitated to reach their full potential in a positive atmosphere.

THE USE OF DRUGS IN SCHOOL

The school does not accept the possession, use or supply of drugs in the school premises, on school trips/events by any member of the school community. The only exemption is for legitimate medical use and the school has to be informed.

Please see Policy for Admission of medicine attached.

This policy focuses on four main areas

1. Alcohol, tobacco and Drug Education Programmes
2. Managing Drug Related Incidents
3. Training and Staff Development
4. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

This school is committed to providing a comprehensive and timetabled drug education programme for all students as part of the Social Personal and Health Education Programme.

Our educational aims in relation to Drug Education are:

1. To increase the self esteem and confidence of our young people
2. to equip young people with personal and social skills
3. to enable young people to make informed, healthy and responsible choices
4. to provide honest age appropriate information on drugs
5. to minimise harm caused by drug use by offering supportive interventions

These aims will be met through the following actions:

- all teachers involved in SPHE will be given the opportunity to avail of training and personal development
- an S.P.H.E Coordinator has been appointed
- the DLP (designated liaison person) Home School Community Coordinator will work in tandem with the Education Project Coordinator with Clondalkin Drugs Task Force, the Board of Management and the principal.
- Staff teaching the Drug Education Programmes will be given the opportunity to avail of training in the Substance Abuse Prevention – “Walk Tall” Programme.
- All teachers will be offered Drug Information and Drug Awareness training through regular inservice training as appropriate and feasible
- A Healthy Lifestyle Week/Drug Awareness Week will be run once a year liaising with Bawnogue Youth and Family Support Group
- Education for Prevention of Substance Misuse Programmes will be run for parents in school by Home School Coordinator.
- Information leaflets pamphlets etc will be on display in the parents room.

OUTSIDE SPEAKERS

We believe that trained teachers are in the best position to carry out drug education programmes but sometimes it may be appropriate to use a professional outside speaker to supplement or reinforce the work done in class.

PARENTS

Parents are to be made aware and informed of what is happening in the school with regard to drug education. This will happen by way of letters and parents meetings. Information on drug education and on drug awareness courses will also be made available to parents.

MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

1. Finding Drugs/Drugs paraphernalia on school property.
2. School grounds being used illegal drugs
3. Possession or use of legal or illegal drugs on school premises or school related activity.
4. Dealing with a person found under the influence of a substance, alcohol or illegal drugs.
5. Disclosure of drug use.

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW WHEN DRUGS / DRUG PARAPHERNALIA ARE FOUND ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

1. Report finding to principal. The principal will arrange the following – send for parent
2. seize the substance and do not destroy
3. contact Gardai and give details of substance found

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW WHEN SCHOOL GROUNDS ARE BEING USED FOR DRUG ACTIVITY

1. The principal should be made aware of the activity
2. The principal will then contact the Gardai and report the activity

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW WHEN PERSON/S IS FOUND SELLING OR SUPPLYING ILLEGAL DRUGS

1. With regard to illegal drugs the matter should be reported to the principal who will contact the Gardai and report activity

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW IF A PUPIL IS FOUND USING AN ILLEGAL /LEGAL SUBSTANCE OR IN THE POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL/LEGAL SUBSTANCE /PARAPHERNALIA ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITY

1. Access the situation (is the child in immediate danger?)
2. Seek help (send for principal or another teacher for support)
3. Remove substance from pupil
4. Notify parents and Gardai regarding incident where necessary
5. Please refer to the Code of Discipline gross misbehaviour and or Child Welfare Policy
6. Recommend parents to bring child to GP
7. Offer support through local agencies. Support will also be offered to pupil/family through School Care Team

NOTE: * If a parent /adult is found in possession of illegal substance they will be asked to leave premises if feasible

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW WHEN A PUPIL IS FOUND DRINKING ALCOHOL OR HAS IT IN THEIR POSSESSION ON THE SCHOOL PREMISES OR ON A SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITY.

1. Assess situation
2. Seek Help
3. Remove substance from pupil if feasible
4. Notify Parents
5. Please refer to school code of discipline gross misbehaviour and or child welfare policy

NOTE: * If a parent/adult is found drinking alcohol on school premises or on school related activity they will be asked to leave school premises or related school activity.
Alcohol may not be consumed on school premises during or after school hours by order of the BOM

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW WHEN A PUPIL IS FOUND SMOKING OR IN POSSESSION OF CIGARETTES ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR ON A SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITY

1. Assess situation
2. Seek Help
3. Remove cigarettes, matches, lighter from pupil where feasible
4. Notify parents
5. Please refer to school Code of Discipline Gross Misbehaviour and or Child Welfare Policy

NOTE:* If a parent/adult is found etc they will be asked to stop / cease or leave premises. Legal document see attachment

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW WHEN A PUPIL IS FOUND UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A SUBSTANCE, ALCOHOL OR ILLEGAL DRUGS

- a) Assess situation
- b) Seek Help
- c) Send for principal
- d) Principal reviews situation
- e) Children removed to the office if feasible
- f) Parents notified
- g) Please refer to school Code of Discipline Gross Misbehaviour and or Child Welfare Policy
- h) Recommend visit to GP
- i) Support offered through School Care Team

STAFF MEMBER UNDER THE INFLUENCE

- a) Reported to the principal
- b) Member asked to leave premises for health & safety reasons. They will arrange for someone to collect them or get a taxi home
- c) Incident discussed on return
- d) If it is a first offence the person will get a warning regarding their behaviour disciplinary action will occur.

PARENT OR ADULT OR CARER UNDER INFLUENCE

- a) Report to principal
- b) Parent asked to leave. They will arrange for someone to collect them or get a taxi home if needed.
- c) Cautioned

NOTE: *If a parent /adult/carer is under the influence when collecting a child the situation will be assessed. Help sought from a colleague and incident recorded in incident/accident book.

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW WHEN A PUPIL /ADULT EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT ANOTHER PUPIL USING SUBSTANCE IN SCHOOL

- a) Teacher listens to concerns
- b) Principal notified
- c) Student offered support by Care Team
- d) Parents notified

TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Inservice: all staff members have/will receive training through the Walk Tall Programme or Substance Misuse/Drugs Education Programme
- Staff teaching the Drug Ed programmes will be given the opportunity to avail of training in the Substance Abuse Prevention (Walk Tall Programme).

- The Clondalkin Drugs Task Force also offers training opportunities and support to staff.

- The H/S/C Liaison will maintain links with the Ed Project Worker of Drugs Task Force through regular contact at local committee meetings and staff meetings and the H/S will liaise with local training groups i.e. BYFS and Cumas

- The Community Awareness of Drugs Ed. Programme (CAD) will be run annually to educate parents in Drug Prevention skills.

- The appointed SPHE Coordinator or DLP within the school will attend the Clondalkin Area School Substance Use Coordinator cluster group aiming to share resources on substance use with other schools in the area.

- The SPHE Coordinator will receive ongoing ed and info on substance use from the SPHE Service and will pass on relevant information to staff.

- A resource library in Clondalkin Drugs Task Force Headquarters is available for use by all staff members.

MONITORING

- It is our policy to carry out the ongoing review and evaluation of both the policy itself and our drugs education programme. This will happen on an annual basis, be documented and involve consultation with the different partners in the school community to ensure that (i) the schools needs are met in this area and (ii) any changes needed can be incorporated into the alcohol, tobacco and drug policy.

DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY

- Copies of the completed policy will be disseminated to all members of the school community at
 - a) Staff Meetings
 - b) Parent Association Meeting
 - c) Introduction of New Registration 2nd & 3rd Transfer, Junior infants
 - d) Home School Liaison visits (Cape)
 - e) Board of Management meetings.

*The policy will be available at all times from the principal's office and the parent's room. Children will be made aware of the policy through the student council and as part of Drugs Ed Programme Walk Tall.