

Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil

Substance Abuse Policy

Sonraí Scoile

Ainm na scoile:	Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil
Seoladh:	Club Rugbaí na Sean Chríostaithe Ráth Chuanna Gleann Maghair Co. Chorcaí
Uimhir gutháin	0214822482
Catagóir:	uilchreidmheach 3 oide
Uimhreacha ar rolla:	48

Title

Substance Use Policy for Gaelscoil Uí Drisceoil

A drug can be defined as a chemical, which causes changes in the way the human body functions mentally, physically or emotionally.

Scope: This Policy applies to all students, teachers, parents and other users of the school premises. It applies during school time (including breaks) and to all school related activities.

Introductory Statement

This policy was formulated by school staff and Board of Management on 3/3/2008

Rationale

- The National Drugs Strategy, 'Building on Experience', is now Government Policy and it requires schools to have a drugs policy in place (Action 43)
- The recent report from the National Advisory Committee on Drugs entitled 'Drug Use Prevention' underlines the importance of schools developing drugs policies.
- To develop a shared understanding of the term 'drugs' and to define the school's agreed position in relation to drug related issues.
- To equip schools to deal with issues relating to substance misuse in a planned and considered way and in accordance with their statutory responsibilities
- To assist teachers in their classroom experience

Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school

- The substance use policy reflects the school ethos in that it will help towards the provision of a well ordered, caring, happy, safe, democratic atmosphere.

Aims

- To ensure the welfare, care and protection of every young person as provided for in the Education Act, 1998 and the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000.
- To ensure that the school complies with legislative requirements and principles of good practice
- To make a contribution, in the area of education and prevention through the SPHE programme
- To minimise the dangers caused to children by drug misuse and drug misusers within schools/communities
- To manage drug related incidents in a planned manner
- To support parents and pupils in addressing drug misuse.

Guidelines (content of policy)

The substance use policy will address issues in relation to

- 1. Current provision regarding alcohol, tobacco, and drug education**
- 2. Current practice in relation to drug use and The management of alcohol, tobacco and substance-related incidents**
- 3. Roles and Responsibilities**

1. Current provision regarding alcohol, tobacco and drug education

The most likely settings and situations where young people/adults in our school are most likely to misuse substances are in the toilets, the yards and on school trips.

An incident regarding the misuse of substances includes the possession, distribution of, suspicion or disclosure of the use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs (solvents) in the school building/grounds or during school related activities where children are present.

2. Current practice in relation to drug use and the management of alcohol, tobacco and substance-related incidents.

Smoking School Policy

- The school is a non smoking area i.e. no smoking within school grounds in yard or smoking in cars
- Students /school staff/ parents are not permitted to smoke or possess cigarettes on the school premises or in any other place during school related activities
- Visitors will comply with the non smoking policy

- Pupils found smoking on school premises will be reported to the principal and parents will be informed.

Alcohol School Policy

- The school is an alcohol free area. In the case of a special event, permission will be sought from the Board of Management.
- Pupils/school staff will not be allowed to bring alcohol into the school or to consume alcohol in school or during any school activities
- If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of alcohol, he/she will immediately inform the principal and consult on what action will be taken.
- If a teacher/principal thinks that a member of staff is under the influence of alcohol, the principal/chairperson must be contacted and the necessary steps taken
- Where children are present alcohol cannot be served
- Where a student comes to school under the influence of alcohol, their parents will be called in to take them home.
- In the case where the child is under the influence of alcohol and where the parent/guardian is unable or unwilling to remove the child/children the local doctor, gardaí or medical services will be contacted

Illicit Drugs, Paraphernalia and Solvents School Policy

- Students are forbidden from being in possession of or using illicit drugs or misusing solvents in the school premises or involved in the distribution of same.
- Teachers are advised not to transport illicit substances at any time.
- In the case of suspected or actual possession or use of illegal drugs on the school premises or on a school related activity the following parties will be informed immediately.
- Chairperson of Board of Management
- Gardaí
- Parents/Guardians of those involved will be contacted

The school will endeavour to respond to incidents involving alcohol, tobacco and drug use in a planned, considered and pastoral way.

In certain cases it may be necessary to seek legal advice.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The school wishes to make clear that the primary role of substance misuse prevention rests with the parents.

Provision for Training and Staff Development

Some teachers have already undergone training in the Walk Tall and SPHE programmes. An effective policy needs to be supported by an on-going commitment from the Board of Management to training and staff development. At present primary schools are assisted in this area by the Primary Curriculum Support Programme (P.C.S.P.) and Walk Tall Support Office (for local Drugs Task Force Area Primary Schools), Health Boards also provide a wide range of support for Schools including Health Education and Health Promotion, Smoking Cessation Support and Adolescent Counselling Service.

Implementation Date

Timetable for Review :

Ratification and Communication

This policy is available online.