

SCHOOL SUBSTANCE USE POLICY

Introductory Statement:

This policy was formulated by the staff of All Saints in consultation with members of the Board of Management.

The policy applies to pupils, teachers/staff, parents/guardians and users of the school at all times and to all school related activities. The policy will be available from the Principal to the Board of Management, teachers and other staff members.

Definition of a Drug is:

any chemical, which alters how, the body works, or how the person behaves or feels. For the purpose of this policy we are concerned with drugs, which have the power to change a previous mood and the way a person thinks about things, and drugs on which the taker may become physically or more often psychologically dependant.

Rationale:

The National Drugs Strategy 'Building on Experience' is now government policy and it requires schools to have a substance use policy in place. See Circular 13/02.

All Saints National School is a health promotion school and therefore we endeavour to promote the well being of the pupils in a structured approach as part of Social, Personal and Health Education by;

- Providing a safe and healthy environment
- Promoting positive health behaviours
- Increasing knowledge about health
- Promoting self esteem
- Working in partnership with parents/guardians and pupils
- Adopting a pro-active rather than a reactive approach.

All Saints endeavours to help its pupils develop social skills with respect for themselves, their peers, parents/guardians, teachers and the wider community. The school through its warm, friendly

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atmosphere and positive values tries to bring about the holistic development of its pupils so that all pupils attain their full potential, spiritually, socially, morally and physically.

Aims:

- To increase self esteem and confidence of young people
- To enable the pupils to make informed, healthy and responsible choices
- To provide honest and age appropriate information on alcohol, tobacco and legal/illegal drugs, prescription and counter drugs.
- To support the aims of the SPHE curriculum.

Smoking: School Policy

- The school and grounds are non smoking areas.
- Visitors will comply with the no smoking policy.
- Tobacco will not be permitted as a prize at school raffles.

Alcohol:

- Pupils are not allowed to consume alcohol in the 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
- If a student comes to school under the influence of alcohol, their parents/guardians will be called in to take them home.
- If alcohol is required for an adult function, permission must be sought from the Board of Management
- Students breaking the rules re alcohol will be dealt with in accordance with the school disciplinary procedures

Illicit Drugs and Solvents:

Students are forbidden from being in possession of or using illicit drugs or solvents on the school premises.

Managing a Drug Incident:

Who needs to be informed?

- Details when reported will be recorded on an Incident Report Form. The Principal, teachers, parents/guardians and health services if necessary will be informed. In the

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event of a confirmed Drug Incident, the school will contact the Gardai and Junior Liaison Officer in order to clarify what the legal position is and what support can be offered the school.

- Illicit drugs found on school premises should be locked away and the Gardai contacted to dispose of them. Teachers are advised not to transport illicit substances at anytime.
- If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of illicit drugs or solvents, he/she 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 Gardai 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.

Confidentiality:

The well being and the welfare of the pupils attending the school will be the prime focus. Total confidentiality cannot be offered but information will only be disclosed on a strict 'need to know' basis.

Disciplinary Procedures:

They will be in line with the Code of Conduct and Behaviour Policy of the school.

Administration of Medicine

See policy on Administration of Medication

Monitory, Review and Evaluation:

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The policy will be reviewed bi-annually or in the light of changing information, developments in educational programme and feed back from parents/guardians. The Board of Management , through the Principal and teaching staff has the overall responsibility for the development and implementation of the policy.

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