



Parteen National School

Parteen

Co. Clare

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Principal: Gerard Ruane

Deputy Principal: Mairéad Guckian

Substance Use Policy

This policy addresses the education of children in relation to alcohol, tobacco, solvents and drugs and the procedures for managing incidents relating to these substances. The National Drugs Strategy (interim) 2009-2016 requires every school to have a substance use policy in place.

Education about the use of substances, prescription and over the counter drugs, alcohol, tobacco, solvents is best carried out by teachers thorough the inclusion of SPHE in the curriculum. Parents also have a pivotal role to play in this regard.

1. Education Concerning Substance Use

Substance misuse prevention education will be taught throughout the school in the overall context of the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum. The core programme for substance misuse prevention education will be the **Walk Tall programme**. This is incorporate into our SPHE Plan.

2. Management of Substance Related Incidents

Legally held substances include:

- alcohol and tobacco
- over the-counter medicines e.g. Paracetamol, cough sweets, etc.
- prescribed drugs e.g. Antibiotics, inhalers, etc.
- volatile substances such as glues, correction fluids/thinners, lighter fuel, aerosols and petrols.

Note: If a pupil needs to take medication in school (e.g. Inhaler, allergy injection etc.) please contact the school principal well in advance.

Smoking – School Policy

- Visitors, staff and parents will comply with the national non-smoking policy
- Pupils found in possession of tobacco products on school premises will be reported to the Principal or Deputy Principal and his/her parents will be informed

- Adults who have in their possession tobacco products for their **own** use, must keep them in their possession at all times and out of sight and reach of children.
- A record should be kept of any incident which occurs. Principal will keep a record in the 'incidents' file.

Alcohol – School Policy

- Pupils are not allowed to bring alcohol into the school or to consume alcohol on the school premises or during any school activities.
- If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of alcohol, she will immediately inform the Principal or Deputy Principal, and consult on what action should be taken. Parents will be notified. In such an instance, our Child Protection Policy will be consulted.
- If a staff member appears to be under the influence of alcohol, it will be reported to the Principal who will act in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Act.
- If an adult appears to be under the influence of alcohol when coming to collect a child, it must be reported to the Principal or Deputy Principal. The child's safety is paramount. The Child Protection Procedures will be consulted accordingly.
- If alcohol is required for an adult only school function, permission shall be sought from the B.O.M. *(An exception to this is when donations of alcohol are made by parents for raffles or adults exchanging gifts)*

Illegal Drug Use – School Policy

- Students, staff, parents and visitors are forbidden from being in possession of or using illegal drugs or solvents in the school premises.
- Illegal drugs found on school premises will be locked away and the Gardai contacted to dispose of them.
- If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of illegal drugs or solvents, s/he will immediately inform the Principal or Deputy Principal and consult on what action should be taken. Parents will be notified. The school's Child Protection Procedures will be consulted.
- If a staff member appears to be under the influence of a substance, it will be reported to the Principal who will act in accordance with Section 24 of the Education Act
- If an adult appears to be under the influence of a substance when coming to collect a child, it must be reported to the Principal or Deputy Principal. The child's safety is paramount. The Child Protection Procedures will be consulted accordingly.
- A record should be kept of any incident which occurs. The DLP or the DDLP will keep the record in a Special Incident Book.

Provision of Training for staff

Relevant courses, offered by the Department of Education and Science, will be offered to staff when they become available. If a staff member wishes to attend any training on this matter every effort will be made to support them. First Aid Training is currently made available to staff each year.

Parental Involvement

The Parents Association were consulted on the development of this policy in February 2020. All parents have access to this policy document on our website. Parents are encouraged to support the school's efforts to educate pupils in substance misuse prevention and to manage substance use incidents.

Ratified by the Board of Management on 5/3/2020

Seamus Gallagher
Chairperson