

# Substance Abuse

## Policies

### Substance Abuse

### MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL DRUG RELATED ISSUES

#### *DEFINITION*

A drug is a chemical substance which alters how the body functions, physically how we behave, mentally how we think, emotionally how we feel. Drugs would include over the counter medication, prescription drugs, nicotine, alcohol, illegal drugs and solvents.

#### *OBJECTIVES*

1. Our pupils will develop skills, values/attitudes to cope with our drug oriented society.
2. Our pupils will experience a safe, healthy and drug free environment at school.

#### *EDUCATION*

Education will be provided in the context of SPHE.

1. Over the counter substances: Children are not allowed to have in their possession over the counter substances. In the event of a child being found to have such substances in their possession the substance will be confiscated and parents/guardians will be notified and will be reminded of the policy. First aid materials are kept in a secure cabinet in the secretary's office.
2. Prescription Drugs: Issues involving prescription drugs will be dealt with in line with our administration of medicines policy. In the event of a child being found to have prescription drugs in their possession the substance will be confiscated, parents will be notified and will be reminded of the policy.
3. Solvents: We will aim to keep the school as free from solvents as is possible. Children in the interest of health and safety will not be allowed to use aerosols e.g. spray deodorants, tippex. Glues and art materials will only be used under teacher supervision. Cleaning materials will be kept securely in the cleaning room. Should the school staff be concerned about a child advice will be sought and the issue discussed with parent/guardian.
4. Nicotine: The school is a smoke free zone in line with legislation. Should a child be found to have cigarettes/cigars in his/her possession they will be confiscated and parents will be informed.
5. Alcohol: If a child is found to be in possession of alcohol it will be confiscated and the parents will be informed. Should a child appear to be under the influence of a substance parents will be notified. Should this behaviour continue advice may be sought under child protection procedures. Should a parent come to the school and appear to be under the influence of a substance all reasonable care will be taken to ensure the safety of the child.
6. Illegal Substances: If what appears to be an illegal substance is found in the school grounds

it will be stored in a safe place and the Gardaí will be informed and requested to remove the substance. In the event of a child being found in possession of what appears to be an illegal substance it will be confiscated and stored safely. Parents will be informed and the appropriate authorities will be consulted. Gardaí will be requested to remove the substance from the school.

#### *TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT*

Staff members have attended SPHE courses, in particular 'Walk Tall' and will continue to attend courses in the future.