

## **Substance Use Policy**

### **Introductory Statement**

**A drug can be defined as a chemical, which causes changes in the way the human body functions mentally, physically or emotionally. For the purpose of this policy we are concerned with substances which have the power to change a previous mood or which the taker may become physically or more often psychologically dependent.**

This policy seeks to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of the children, staff, parents and users of Kill o' the Grange Parish National School while they are in attendance at the school.

### **Aims:**

- To ensure the smooth running of the school.
- To ensure the safety of children, staff, visitors and school users.
- To enable children to make informed healthy and responsible choices.
- To equip children with personal and social skills.
- To provide honest and age appropriate information on drugs.
- In line with the ethos of the school to provide an environment where people feel valued and respected and where there is genuine tolerance, fairness and support for those in difficulty.

### **Contents of Policy**

- In accordance with Health and Safety regulations, smoking is prohibited on the school premises.
- Alcohol shall not be consumed on the school premises.
- The school does not accept the possession, use or supply of drugs in the school or on school related activities. The only exception is for legitimate medicinal use and the school must be informed in writing.
- To ensure children's safety, they are not allowed to bring cigarettes, matches, lighters, aerosols, tippex or any products containing dangerous solvents to school. Such products will be confiscated and appropriate action taken.

In devising this policy, consideration has been given to the particular needs and circumstances of the school.

The school community will be familiar with the rules re. smoking / prohibited substances etc.  
(See School Code of Behaviour)  
(See also Health and Safety Statement)

## **Methodology**

Education about alcohol, tobacco and drugs will be provided in the Social and Personal Health Education (S.P.H.E.), which is developmental and delivered in the context of a supported whole school environment.

Programmes used will include

- Stay Safe Programme
- Walk Tall
- R.S.E.
- Health Pack

Specialists in the area of substance abuse may visit senior classes.

Talks will be arranged through P.T.A./ B.O.M. to highlight parental/ staff awareness in the area of drug abuse. In the event of substance abuse being suspected, a class teacher/adult should bring their concerns to the Principal. In consultation with the Chairperson of the Board of Management, the Principal should take appropriate action.

## **Roles and Responsibility for Development, Implementation and Reporting.**

The Board of Management, through the Principal and teaching staff has the overall responsibility for the development and implementation of this policy.

## **Success Criteria**

The success of this policy will be judged by the successful implementation of its stated aims.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management.

September 2006

Revised September 2017