

Substance Use Policy

Community College Dunshaughlin

Introduction

This policy applies to the entire school community, visitors to the School and workers employed by the School.

The School realises that the exposure to tobacco, alcohol, illegal behaviour altering substances and drugs is a reality for many young people today.

The School acknowledges that it can make a positive contribution to the prevention of substance misuse. The welfare and protection of DCC students is central to our **Mission Statement**.

Mission Statement

We are committed to the provision of a complete education maximising student potential to the highest possible standards through a highly committed staff in a modern well-equipped college.

We strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect in a happy, caring, supportive but challenging and well-structured environment.

Objectives.

The underlying objectives of the policy are:-

- To provide a safe and healthy school environment
- To develop, agree and implement effective, fair and transparent procedures to deal with incidences related to substance abuse.
- To inform all pertinent partners by means of established communication channels of these procedures
- To create awareness of the dangers of substance misuse among the school community

School Substance Use Policy Statement

- The school does not tolerate the use, possession or supply of prohibited drugs, drug paraphernalia, non-prescribed, behaviour altering, illegal substances or alcohol, by anyone in the school, on school trips or during any school related activities.
- Smoking on school grounds is forbidden by law. Students are expected not to smoke on their way to and from school and are prohibited from doing so on school trips or on any other school-related activity.
- Parents are required to inform the school in writing if students must take prescribed medication during school time.
- No staff member will give a student any prescribed or “over the counter” medication except in exceptional circumstances and with the prior consent of the parent.
- Students may not give another student any prescribed or “over the counter” medication.

MANAGEMENT OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, BEHAVIOUR ALTERING SUBSTANCES AND DRUG RELATED - INSTANCES

1. A student considered to be under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances, will be immediately put into the care of the principal, deputy principal or their nominee. The student’s parents/guardians will be contacted and as a matter of urgency will be required to collect the student from school. If necessary, medical attention will be sought for the student.
2. Where it is apparent that there is immediate danger to any member of the school community, the School reserves the right to suspend or remove temporarily from the school any student involved in a suspected abuse incident pending a further and complete investigation of the incident.

3. The School will take all steps necessary to fully investigate and assess any abuse incident. The school will liaise with parents.
4. The school will inform, liaise and consult with the Gardai regarding all school incidents involving illegal substances.
5. The School will take possession of any banned or prohibited substances and drug paraphernalia associated with a drug incident, recording such items and retaining them pending completion of the investigation, unless otherwise instructed by the appropriate authorities.
6. The School, at its own discretion, will liaise with any appropriate outside authority such as the HSE or other professional agencies.
7. In all identified cases every effort will be made by the school to help the affected student and to seek pastoral and counselling support.
8. Students who are involved in alcohol or drug related and smoking incidents are subject to the school's Positive Behaviour policy. Disciplinary measures may involve suspension and reference to the Board of Management for exclusion.
9. Any student using, supplying or possessing illegal substances during the school day or on school trips will be suspended immediately and may possibly be permanently excluded.
10. In the case of a student attending the school following a drug or alcohol related incident, the School reserves the right to stipulate conditions and interventions which it deems necessary to assist the student. These conditions may include external counselling, ongoing testing for drug abuse and ongoing consultations with external agencies, such as Juvenile Liaison Officer, social worker etc.

PROGRAMME FOR ALCOHOL, DRUG, TOBACCO AND BEHAVIOUR ALTERING SUBSTANCES EDUCATION.

The School supports the concept, embodied in various National Bodies, of empowering the child to make good and informed choices.

The School seeks to strike a balance between the welfare of the student(s) involved, the welfare of the other members of the school community as a whole and the reputation of the school.

The School requests parents to assist and co-operate fully with the school in dealing with any incident relating to substance use/misuse.

The School will support parents by ensuring that students have access to information on substance use/misuse.

The School endeavours to provide appropriate education programmes for all its students, teachers and parents, while accepting the need for each group to keep itself updated in regards to substance use/misuse.

The following are examples of programmes that have been provided and will continue to be provided by the School:-

Students

CSPE, SPHE, Religion and Pastoral Care classes.

These programmes will be tailored for each year group and will be part of the existing programmes delivered in the school.

Pastoral and Support Services:-

- Counselling Services in the school
- Referrals to outside agencies, such as Aisling and the HSE
- Training programmes for students, (such as Peer Youth Educators), as they become available and are considered appropriate
- Guest Speakers from outside agencies such as Aisling, Crew Network, Gardai (Junior Liaison Officer), and Addiction Counsellors
- The Cool School programme
- Anti-bullying programme

- The Care Committee

These services are an integral part of the general education and are part of a supportive whole school environment.

Teachers

- SPHE in-service training days
- Staff Professional Development days
- Briefings and preparation for Pastoral Classes
- Substance abuse prevention programme offered by the HSE or other national agencies

Parents

- The School will provide details on current educational and information programmes offered.
- The School, in conjunction with the Parents Association will continue to provide Drug Awareness evenings and Parent Nights
- The school will post Brochures on the Safe Passage programme, published by Aisling, to all parents each year.
- Referrals, from parents to the school, are encouraged.

MONITORING/REVIEWING

The School will monitor, review and evaluate this policy on an ongoing basis.

Students will be made aware of this policy as part of their SPHE Programme and it will also be referred to by class tutors during Pastoral Cars classes.

This policy document will be available to all members of the school community.