

Scoil Áine Naofa
Loreto,
An Uaimh,
Co. na Mhí.



St Anne's
Loreto Primary School
Navan,
Co. Meath.

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SUBSTANCE USE POLICY

Introduction

A drug is any substance (with the exception of food and water) which when taken into the body alters the body's function either physically and / or psychologically.

The school sees itself as having a role in the process of enabling students to increase control over and improve their health. We endeavor to promote the well being of students by:-

1. Providing a safe and healthy environment.
2. Promoting positive health behaviours.
3. Increasing knowledge about health.
4. Promoting the self-esteem and self-awareness of students.
5. Working in partnership with the parents and pupils.

To this end, in response to the pervasive drug culture in our society we feel the need to implement a comprehensive policy to address the problem of substance misuse.

The Policy will focus on :-

1. Strategies for prevention of substance misuse, i.e. The teaching of the Walk Tall, Grow in Love, and SPHE programmes.
2. Procedures for dealing with drugs incidences in the school.
3. Guidelines and information for the teachers to improve their response to the problem of substance misuse.

Implementation of the Policy.

The policy will be available from the Principal to the BOM, Teachers and other staff.

The policy will be regularly evaluated and updated where necessary.

The school wishes to make clear that the primary role of substance misuse prevention rests with the parents.

Prevention

It is accepted amongst educationalists that education about alcohol, tobacco and drugs is best carried out by teachers through the inclusion of SPHE in the curriculum. This SPHE Programme would also draw on the expertise available from the community, i.e. Parents, Gardaí and Health Board.

Smoke-free Workplace Policy

- The School is designated no smoking area.
- All employees and pupils have the right to work and study in a smoke-free environment.

- Pupils are not permitted to possess cigarettes on the school premises or school grounds.
- Smoking is prohibited throughout the workplace. This policy applies to all employees, parents, consultants, contractors, visitors and pupils.
- All staff have an obligation to adhere to, and facilitate the implementation of this policy.
- Infringements are to be notified to the Principal or the Chairperson of the Board of Management.

Smoking Cessation

Information on how to obtain help quitting smoking is available from the National Smokers Quitline on call save 18502010203 or the Health Promotion Department of local Health Boards.

Alcohol School Policy

- The school is an alcohol free zone.
- Pupils will not be allowed to bring alcohol into the school or to consume alcohol in school or during any school activities.
- If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of alcohol, s/he will immediately inform the Principal and consult on what action should be taken.
- Where a student comes to school under the influence of alcohol, their parents will be called in to take them home.
- Students breaking these rules will be dealt with according to the school's disciplinary procedure.
- If alcohol is required for an adult only school function, permission shall be sought from the Board of Management.

Illicit Drugs and Solvents

- Students are forbidden from being in possession of or using illicit drugs or solvents on the school premises.
- Illicit drugs found on school premises should be locked away and the Gardaí contacted to dispose of them. Teachers are advised not to transport illicit substances at any time. If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of illicit drugs or solvents, s/he 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 Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer will be sought.
- The school BOM will expect parents to inform the Principal or teacher if they suspect their child of drug taking.

Ratification and Communication

The Policy was initially ratified at the Board of Management Meeting in March 2011.

Ratified by Board of Management on 17th December 2020

Signed: *Máire O'Donoghue*
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: *Clíodhna O'Brien*
Principal

Next Review Date: January 2023