



## **Scoil Mhuire Allenwood**

### **Substance Abuse Prevention Policy**

#### Introduction

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 drugs which have the power to change a previous mood and the way a person thinks about things, and drugs which the taker may become physically or more often psychologically dependent.

#### Aims

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

- 📖 Providing a safe and healthy environment
- 📖 Promoting positive health behaviours
- 📖 Increasing knowledge about health
- 📖 Promoting the self-esteem and self-awareness of students
- 📖 Working in partnership with parents and pupils

To this end and in response to the encroaching 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:**

- 📖 Strategies for prevention of substance misuse problems i.e. Walk Tall, S.P.H.E., etc.
- 📖 Procedures for dealing with drug incidences in the school
- 📖 Guidelines and information for teachers to improve their response to the problem of substance misuse

This document should read with the Code of Behaviour/Discipline policy of the school.

## **Implementation of the Policy**

This policy will be regularly evaluated and updated where necessary.

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

The school Substance Abuse Prevention Policy is implemented through the use of programmes from S.P.H.E. and Wall Tall and will also draw on the expertise available from the community i.e. Parents, Garda and HSE.

## **Smoking**

- 📖 The school is a restricted non-smoking area
- 📖 Students are not permitted to smoke or possess cigarettes on the school premises
- 📖 Visitors will comply with the restricted non-smoking policy
- 📖 Pupils found smoking on school premises will be reported to the Principal and parents will be informed
- 📖 Tobacco will not be permitted as a prize for school raffles
- 📖 We ask local Gardaí to visit schools and speak to classes
- 📖 We purchased additional CCTV cameras

## **Alcohol**

- 📖 Pupils will not be allowed to consume alcohol in school or during any activities
- 📖 If the 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.

## **Illicit Drugs and Solvents**

- 📖 Students are forbidden from being in the possession of or using illicit drugs or solvents on the school premises
- 📖 Use of spray deodorants or hair sprays is forbidden even at swimming pool.
- 📖 Illicit drugs found on school premises should be locked away and the Garda 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, parents of any student involved will be informed and the advice and assistance of the Gardaí will be sought.
- 📖 The school Board of Management will expect parents to inform the Principal or teacher if they suspect their child of drug taking

In implementing this policy, due care will be taken in deciding on the balance between a pastoral and a disciplinary response.

Appropriate reporting and confidentiality will be observed in implementing this policy.

This policy document has been ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire Allenwood, Naas, Co. Kildare.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

The school community of BoM, staff, pupils and parents play a key role in the formulation and implementation of the plan.

Review:

This policy was reviewed in September 2019. It was ratified by the B.O.M. at its meeting on

16/09/2019.

A signed copy of the full policy is included in the B.O.M. minutes file.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson BOM

Principal