



## Polasaí maidir le Mí-úsáid Substaintí (Scoláirí)

### Introduction

This policy addresses the education of children in relation to alcohol, tobacco, solvents and drugs and the procedures for managing incidents relating to these substances. A drug is any substance which changes the way the body functions, mentally, physically or emotionally. This description includes many substances we normally think of as drugs as well as substances we might not usually consider to be drugs such as coffee, tea, alcohol, solvents and tobacco (Corrigan, 2003 cited in Best Practice Guidelines in Substance Misuse Prevention Education 2010).

### Rationale

The Coláiste acknowledges that it has an important role to play in drugs education, particularly in terms of prevention. The central objective of this substance use policy is the welfare, care and protection of children attending the Coláiste. We believe that the entire Coláiste community needs to work together and that co-operation is essential to the acceptance and implementation of the policy. This policy applies to pupils, all Coláiste personnel, parents / guardians, visitors to the Coláiste and the Management Committee.

### Coláiste Ethos

The Coláiste believes that the Personal and Social development of each member of the Coláiste community is important. Good relationships are fostered, people feel valued and respected and there is genuine tolerance, fairness and support for those in difficulty

As a health promoting establishment we have an important role in enabling students to increase control over and improve their health. The wellbeing of students is enhanced by:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment
- Promoting positive attitude towards health
- Increasing knowledge about health
- Actively promoting self-esteem and self-awareness
- Working in partnership with the parents/guardians and pupils

This document should read with the Code of Behaviour/Discipline Policy of the Coláiste and the Administration of Medicines Policy.

### Management of alcohol, tobacco and drug-related incidents

Assessment of the particular situation

Managing the incident

Considerations include:

- Manage any medical emergencies in the first instance
- Inform and consult with the Bainisteoirí Feidhme / Stiúrthóir
- Involve parents, Gardaí and HSE (as appropriate)
- Referral to other appropriate intervention
- Balance a pastoral care approach with disciplinary procedures
- Maintain confidentiality
- Designate one person (only) to deal with media enquiries, if indicated/appropriate
- Record a factual account of the incident. Report the incident (if indicated)



### Types of Incidents

- Use/ suspected use of alcohol, drug, tobacco on the Coláiste premises or during a Coláiste related activity
- Intoxication/ unusual behaviour
- Disclosures about abuse
- Finding alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and/or associated paraphernalia
- Possession and/ or supply on the Coláiste premises or during a Coláiste related activity

### Smoking

- The Coláiste and its environs are non-smoking areas.
- Visitors will comply with the non-smoking policy.
- Pupils found in possession of tobacco products, Vaporisers or E-cigarettes on Coláiste premises will be reported to the Stiúrthóir and his/her parent(s) / guardian(s) will be informed.
- Adults who have in their possession tobacco products for their own use must keep them in their possession at all times and out of sight and reach of children.
- The school's Child Protection Policy will be consulted.
- A record should be kept of any incident which occurs.

### Alcohol

- Pupils are not allowed to bring alcohol into the Coláiste or to consume alcohol in/on the Coláiste premises or during any Coláiste activities.
- If a member of staff is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of alcohol, s/he will immediately inform the Riarthóir / Bainisteoirí Feidhme / Stiúrthóir and consult on what action should be taken. Parents will be notified if necessary. In such an instance the Coláiste's Child Protection Policy will be consulted.
- If an adult appears to be under the influence of alcohol when coming to collect a child, it must be reported to the Riarthóir / Bainisteoirí Feidhme / Stiúrthóir or SPHE post-holder. The child's safety is paramount and due consideration must be given as to releasing the child to such parent/guardian.
- If alcohol is required for an adult only Coláiste function, permission shall be sought in advance from the Bainisteoirí Feidhme / Stiúrthóir. Alcohol will only be provided in a designated area of the Coláiste. Adults own alcohol must be kept in their accommodation at all times.
- A record should be kept of any incident which occurs.

### Drugs and Solvents

- Students are forbidden to be in possession of or using illegal drugs, solvents or aerosols in the Coláiste premises
- All solvents used in the Coláiste are securely stored.
- Illegal drugs found on Coláiste premises will be locked away and the Gardaí are contacted to dispose of them.
- If a member of staff is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of illegal drugs or solvents, s/he will immediately inform the Riarthóir / Bainisteoirí Feidhme / Stiúrthóir or SPHE post-holder and consult on what action should be taken. His / her parents will be notified. The school's Child Protection Policy will be consulted.





- If an adult appears to be under the influence of a substance when coming to collect a child, it must be reported to the Riarthóir / Bainisteoirí Feidhme / Stiúrthóir or SPHE post-holder. The child's safety is paramount. The child's safety is paramount and due consideration must be given as to releasing the child to such parent/guardian.
- A record should be kept of any incident which occurs.

#### Administration of Medicine

Specific Coláiste policy exists and medicines will be administered in accordance with same.

Trained First-Aid personnel are on hand. Training must be reviewed every two years.

Storage – Substances which may be misused will be securely stored in line with the Health and Safety Statement.

In addition to the above, at all times there will be an appropriate, balanced pastoral response.

Coláiste personnel are aware of the need for strict confidentiality in matters relating to substance use. Staff members have been made sufficiently aware of and sensitive to the signs and symptoms of substance misuse. Staff members have been made sufficiently aware of laws relating to alcohol, tobacco and drug use and how they relate to themselves, to the Coláiste and the students. New staff, in particular, will be briefed on the substance use policy of the Coláiste.

All staff will be provided with the 'Polasaí maidir le Mí-úsáid Substaintí (Scoláirí)'.

#### Roles and Responsibilities.

The Coiste Bainistíochta are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

The policy will be reviewed in light of any new legislation or if an incident requires so.

Sínte:

(Cathaoirleach)

Dáta:

27/05/23

Sínte:

(Stiúrthóir)

Dáta:

27/5/23

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's development. The second part of the report deals with the specific details of the country's development. It is a very detailed and thorough study of the country's development. The third part of the report deals with the specific details of the country's development. It is a very detailed and thorough study of the country's development.

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