

Cloneen National School

Cloneen, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

Telephone: 052 6131887 Email: office@cloneenns.ie Web: www.cloneenns.ie Reg. Charity No.: 20204142



Príomhoide: Helen Kiersey

Leas Phríomhoide: Úna Kiernan

Roll No. 17694H

Substance Use Policy

Scope of Policy

This policy applies to students, teachers, auxiliary staff members, users of the school premises, visitors, i.e. every person who enters the building. It is applicable during school-time – including breaks and to ALL school related activities. It applies to the school building and grounds and to any area where a school related activity takes place.

Aims of Policy

The aim of the substance use policy of Cloneen N.S. is primary prevention. We aim to protect our pupils from the harmful effects of substance misuse and try to prevent them from using tobacco, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs. We aim to develop in our pupils' better self-esteem, through providing a positive school climate and atmosphere and through giving our pupils age appropriate information from educational programmes.

Relationship To School's Mission, Vision And Aims

The characteristic spirit of this school has been developed and agreed with our partners in education. This substance use policy reflects the school policy by drawing together teachers, parents and Board of Management members in formulating the policy.

Rationale

Why is this policy necessary?

The world in which we live presents young people with many challenges, which affect their health and well-being. Exposure to alcohol, tobacco and drugs is part of this reality. Schools need to reflect upon how they might provide for the needs of their student cohort and respond appropriately to what are sometimes sensitive and emotive issues.

The Education Act 1998 provides that schools should promote the social and personal development of students and provide health education for them. The National Drugs Strategy '*Building on Experience*' is now government policy and it requires schools to have a substance use policy in place.

Implementation Procedures

Copies of the policy were distributed to Board of Management members for ratification in October 2021. When ratified and amended, copies were given to:

- All staff members
- Parents' Association
- Committee members
- School Community on request

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Management of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Related Incidents

A. Pupils

Pupils may be suspended or expelled if involved in any drug related incident. The school's shared understanding of a 'drug related incident' is:

- Any unusual or unbecoming behaviour resulting from intake or use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs
- The sale or passing on of any illegal substance,
- The possession of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs on school grounds or at school related activities
- Disposal of drugs or related items (e.g. syringes) found on school property.

The reporting procedure for such incidents is:

Step 1: Witness to drug related incident informs teacher/staff member/Principal

Step 2: Principal inform parents/guardians

Step 3: Principal informs Chairperson of Board of Management

Step 4: Gardai informed depending on seriousness of incident

Step 5: Area Health Board informed for disposal of items

Parents will be informed of an incident involving their own child and will be asked to accept responsibility, co-operate with the Board of Management and with the Gardai if necessary.

Parents will be involved in incidents involving another child only if deemed necessary by the Board of Management. If parents are aware that another child is involved in drug-related incidents under the scope of this policy they should inform the teacher or Principal.

B. School Employees

The Board of Management shall ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that pupils and other persons in the workplace are not exposed to risks to their safety, health or welfare from persons under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. The term "in the workplace", in the preceding sentence includes all school related activities taking place under the supervision of a teacher, with the Board's approval, and both within and away from the school premises.

Every school employee shall, while at work, ensure that he or she is not under the influence of an intoxicant as required by Section 13 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005.

Should the Principal and/or Deputy Principal have reasonable grounds to believe that a staff member is unfit for work, due to being under the influence of an intoxicant, the Principal and/or Deputy Principal shall ask that person to remove themselves from the workplace, in the interests of the safety, health and welfare of the employee and of others. In the case of an employee who attends work under the influence of an intoxicant, disciplinary procedures may be implemented.

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c. Non-staff members

If a member of staff has reasonable grounds to believe any person, other than a staff member, is unfit to be on the premises, due to being under the influence of an intoxicant, the staff member shall report his/her belief promptly to the Principal and/or Deputy Principal, who shall ask that person to remove him/herself from the workplace.

If a member of staff has reasonable grounds to believe that a parent or adult collecting a pupil from school or presenting themselves on the premises for another reason is unfit to be on the premises or to take care of the said pupil, the Principal and/or Deputy Principal will be informed and the duty of care will apply to the pupil. All necessary steps will be taken to protect the pupil and safeguard their best interests.

In the event that a staff member or any other person, referred to above, refuses a reasonable request to remove him/herself from the premises, the Principal and/or Deputy Principal may call the Gardaí to remove the person in question.

The Board of Management acknowledges its responsibility in promoting the welfare at work of teachers. An Employee Assistance Service (telephone: 1800 411 057 or e-mail: ees@vhics.ie) is available to teaching staff. In the event that substance abuse appears to be adversely affecting the performance and/or attendance pattern of any member of the teaching staff, the Board of Management may request such staff member to contact the Employee Assistance Service.

The Board of Management also acknowledges its responsibility in promoting the welfare at work of all other staff members. In the event that substance abuse appears to be adversely affecting the performance and/or attendance pattern of any member of the non teaching staff, the Board of Management may request such staff member to seek counseling or other professional intervention.

All incidents, relating to the presence of persons at school, under the influence of an intoxicant, shall be recorded and reported as soon as possible to the Principal.

The Principal/Board of Management shall consider all such reports and decide on the appropriate action to be taken in the circumstances of each particular case.

A record will be kept in school of all substance use incidents.

Communication, Monitoring and Review

This policy will be communicated to staff and school community as appropriate. It will be reviewed every five years, unless there is a compelling reason to review it earlier.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

12/10/21

(Chairperson, Board of Management)