



# TYRRELSTOWN

Educate Together National School

## Substance Use Policy

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<sup>1</sup> A policy is that which has been approved directly by the Board of Management.

<sup>2</sup> A procedure is that which approval of has been delegated to the Principal and staff by the Board of Management.

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## 1. Introduction

This policy reflects our school ethos, to provide a child-centred education and acknowledges the role we play in the holistic development of our pupils and addressing their individual needs in an atmosphere of caring support, respect and concern.

This policy is based on the belief that this school can make important contributions in the education of children about the correct use of substances and the prevention of substance misuse.

A drug is defined as any substance that has the potential to interact with the natural activities taking place within the human body and, as a result, can cause changes in how the body works, either physically, mentally or emotionally. This includes alcohol, tobacco, solvents, narcotics and prescription medicines. Drugs are freely available in our society, both legally sold for medicinal purposes and sold illegally and their potential for harm through misuse is a major threat particularly to our children and young people.

## 2. Aims

- To provide a safe and healthy environment for all members of our school community, as provided for in the Education Act 1998 and the Education Welfare Act 2000.
- To promote positive healthy behaviour through providing the children with the knowledge and skills to make healthy choices.
- To promote good self-esteem, confidence and self-awareness.
- To set out procedures to address specific incidents which could arise during the school day or during school related activities.
- To provide parent information, staff support and training.

## 3. Education Programme

This policy is supported by the following education programmes which are in line with the Social Personal and Health Education Curriculum. All programmes are age and developmentally appropriate and parents/guardians will be informed and permission sought before a sensitive subject is discussed in the classroom.

- Walk Tall
- Stay Safe
- Relationship and Sexuality Education
- Ethical Core Curriculum

## 4. Management of Substances and Drug-Related Incidents

### 4.2 Administration of prescribed medicines.

- It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians of every child enrolled in the school to provide the school with any medical condition/allergy that a child suffers from.
- A child may only take a prescribed drug in school-time when it has been agreed in writing and that the parents/guardians administer the medicine.
- Any prescribed drugs on school premises shall be stored appropriately as agreed between the Principal and BOM and the child's parents/guardians and is clearly labelled with the name of the child.
- No child shall have prescription drugs in their possession without the permission of the Principal and the BOM.

### 4.3 Drug-Related Incidents

Drug-related incidents can take many forms and the correct management response will depend on the circumstances involved and will be in line with the school's code of behaviour and anti-bullying policies. The handling of any drug related incident must involve a balance between pastoral care and disciplinary procedures. The individual needs of the child will be taken into consideration as will the health and safety of all members of the school community. Confidentiality must be of the highest priority and outside help may be sought, from the local Gardaí and/or the local Drugs Task Force.

- Medical emergencies
- Suspicion or rumour of drug use or possession
- Possession of an illegal/legal drug on school premises or at a school-related activity.
- Drugs or drug paraphernalia found on school premises.

#### 4.3.1 The course of action will be as follows:

- All incidents involving substance use/misuse must be immediately reported to the DLP/DDLP and will be recorded in the school's incident book/file.
- Parents/Guardians are contacted and in case of illegal substances the Gardaí are contacted. This shall be considered as a serious misbehavior and dealt with as outlined in the Code of Behaviour.
- Depending on the nature of the incident, the situation will be monitored carefully by the class Teacher and DLP/DDLP.

- If needed, family will be advised of local support agencies that may be able to offer assistance.
- Any media enquiries regarding drug-related incidents within the school community will be addressed by the Principal or the Chairperson of the BOM and in no circumstances will individual cases be commented on.

## 5. Staff and Parent/Guardian Training, Support and Resources

- The school will support the teacher by providing the relevant resource materials.
- Walk Tall training course for teachers will be made available.
- Parents can make an appointment to speak with the class teacher and/or principal regarding the programmes taught in the school.
- Any links with relevant agencies or resources that parents/guardians have which will supplement and enhance this policy and the education of substance use/misuse may be included in this policy.

## 6. References

- SPHE Plan, 2011, TETNS
- Code of Behaviour, 2011, TETNS
- Drug Use Prevention, 2001, National Advisory Committee on Drugs
- Education Act, 1998, Government of Ireland
- Education Welfare Act, 2000, NEWB