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Substance Use Policy Coill Dubh

Scope:

This policy applies to all members of the school community: teachers, pupils, parents and other staff members, and to all who use the school premises at any time.

This document should read alongside the Mission Statement of Coill Dubh and the Discipline and Health and Safety policies of the school.

Rationale:

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 a part of this reality. We see our school as having a roll in the process of enabling pupils to face these challenges and make healthy and informed choices.

For the purposes of this policy we define a drug as being any substance which alters the way a human body functions mentally, physically or emotionally.

Goals and Objectives:

We endeavour to promote the well being of pupils by:

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

Dissemination of the Policy

- ❖ The policy will be available from the school Principal to the Board of Management, teachers and other staff members.
- ❖ Parents and guardians will be given a copy of the policy on enrolment of their child to the school. Enrolment will be on acceptance of this policy.(Commencing year 2010/2011)
- ❖ The policy will be regularly evaluated and updated where necessary.
- ❖ The school wishes to make clear that the primary roll of substance misuse prevention lies with the parents.

Policy Content

The policy is divided into the following sections:

1. Education concerning substance use.
2. Management of alcohol, tobacco and drug related incidents.
3. Provision for training and staff development.

1. Education concerning substance use:

- ❖ Education about school, tobacco and drugs is provided in the broader context of SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education). The core of our school plan for SPHE is the Walk Tall (substance misuse prevention programme). The programme is developmental and delivered to the context of a supportive school environment.
- ❖ The use of any outside visitor / speaker will always be considered in the context of the programme and will be undertaken in the presence of the class teacher.

2. Management of Alcohol , tobacco and drug related incidents:

Tobacco Policy

- ❖ Coill Dubh is a smoke free environment. There is no smoking in the school or in the grounds.
- ❖ Students are not permitted to smoke or possess cigarettes on the school premises or during any school related activities.

Alcohol Policy

- ❖ Coill Dubh is an alcohol free environment.
- ❖ Pupils may not consume alcohol in the school or during any school related activities.
- ❖ If alcohol is required for an adult only function, permission shall be sought from the Board of Management.

Drugs Policy

- (a) Medicines
- (b) Illicit drugs and solvents

(a) Medicines

- ❖ In the case of children who require medication, proper and clearly understood arrangements for administration of medicines must be made (see policy for administration of medication).

(b) Illicit drugs and solvents

- ❖ All members of the school community are expressly forbidden from possessing or using illicit drugs or solvents in the school premises.

We consider incidents of alcohol, tobacco and drug related incidents to be:

- ❖ Use or suspected use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco on the school premises or during a school related activity.
- ❖ Intoxication or unusual behaviour.
- ❖ Disclosure about use.
- ❖ Discovery of these substances and / or associated paraphernalia.
- ❖ Possession and / or supply on the premises or during a school related activity.

School response to incidents involving school, tobacco and drugs.

- ❖ The school will respond to incidents involving alcohol, tobacco and drug use in a planned and considered way.
- ❖ The school shall at all times be aware of the sensitive and confidential nature of these issues.
- ❖ Staff should direct any media enquiries to the Principal.
- ❖ Pupils found smoking on the school premises will be reported to the Principal and parents will be informed.
- ❖ If a teacher is of the opinion that a pupil is under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs or solvents, she/he will immediately inform the Principal. Together they will assess the situation and decide on a suitable course of action. The parents of all children involved shall be informed.

- ❖ If a child makes a disclosure that he/she has been using drugs, alcohol or tobacco it will be reported to the principal. The situation shall be assessed and appropriate action taken.
- ❖ Illicit drugs found on the premises will be locked away and the Gardai contacted to dispose of them.
- ❖ 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 Gardai Juvenile Liaison Officer will be sought.
- ❖ Where the school feels appropriate the families involved will be referred to a support agency.
- ❖ If the school receives reports concerning use and/or supply of illegal drugs on the school premises a report shall be made to the Gardai.

3. Provision for Training and Staff Development

- ❖ Evanna Linehan is coordinator for the subject SPHE.
- ❖ The coordinator shall attend relevant in-service training and feedback to the staff.
- ❖ Teachers wishing to attend in-service training shall be accommodated to the best of the school's ability.
- ❖ New staff will be briefed by the coordinator on the substance use policy of the school.
- ❖ The SPHE school plan shall be reviewed regularly by the staff and updated as necessary.
- ❖ The co-ordinator will provide a list of support agencies in the community to the staff.
- ❖ The co-ordinator will provide a list of support agencies to any parents seeking help.