



SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY
Coláiste Cholmille Ballyshannon.
Update 22 Dec 2015
Brought to Board May 2015

Unknown

Field Code Changed

Mission Statement

Coláiste Cholmille is a community which respects the rights and self-worth of each individual. It aims to provide a happy, safe and secure environment for learning for each individual.

Coláiste Cholmille asserts its right to protect and promote its ethos by requiring certain standards of behaviour and prohibiting certain practises.

The Education Act (1998) provides that schools promote the social and personal education of students and provide health education for them.

The dangers of tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse pose challenges and provide opportunities for the school community as an important social partner in providing substance abuse awareness and education.

Scope.

The policy applies to all students in the school. Parents will be made aware of the policy and will accept its conditions as part of the schools Code of Conduct. This policy will apply to all school time (including breaks) and to all school related activities, e.g. Tours, Games, Retreats, Debates, Open Days etc.

We have a duty of care to all students and therefore Coláiste Cholmille will not tolerate the abuse of any substances.

Substances fall into three categories and will be dealt with separately in this policy.

- Smoking to include e-cigarettes
- Alcohol
- Illegal/herbal ("legal" high) Substances.

Objectives.

1. To provide a healthy environment for the school community.
2. To outline procedures where there are breaches of policy regarding the use of tobacco, alcohol and illegal/herbal (“legal” high) substances.
3. To set out procedures for informing and educating the school community of the dangers of substance abuse.

Parents are asked to:

- ✚ Acknowledge the importance of these programmes and avail of the opportunity to attend such programmes.
- ✚ Recognise that they are in partnership with the school in relation to informing and educating their children regarding substance abuse.
- ✚ Assist and co-operate fully with the school as it seeks to deal justly and effectively with any incidents that may arise.

In the event of an abuse incident, the school will seek to strike a balance between the welfare of the student/students involved and the welfare of the school community as a whole.

Policy Content

The policy content is divided into the three sections below:

- A. Education concerning substance abuse.
- B. Provision for training and staff development.
- C. Procedures for managing Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug related incidents.

A. **Education**

Education about alcohol, tobacco and drugs is most effective in the broader context of a SPHE programme which is developmental and delivered in the context of supportive whole school environment. The use of outside agencies (e.g. Gardaí, Health Board) to enhance the work done in class should also be considered.

B. **Training and Staff Development.**

In relation to staff, the school

Will deliver training in presenting education programmes relating to alcohol, tobacco and drugs.

- Special training on the role of staff in relation to the management and investigation of abuse incidents.
- In relation to parents and management.
- Will provide opportunities to attend information sessions in relation to this policy.
- Will provide appropriate information, guidance and support to the board of Management regarding issues relating to the investigation of and adjudication on substance abuse incidents.

Sanctions

Smoking

1. This refers to traditional tobacco cigarettes and e-cigarettes.
2. Suspension of one day for each offence.
3. Student to be given educational handouts and leaflets.
4. Video and education pack "Smoking and You"

Alcohol

The use, possession or being under the influence of alcohol is strictly prohibited

Sanctions.

- Suspension for three days.
- Principal and student contact home to report incident.
- Referral for counselling/assessment if a pattern develops.

School tours and school related events.

At earliest opportune time, student phones home in presence of Tour Leader.(Leader dials number) and the student reports incident to parents.

A fine of 50 Euro will be imposed. (Donated to Charity).

Suspension for three days on return to school.

Restrictions on all other school trips.

All of the above should be included on checklist for school tours and parents/Guardians accept and sign.

Illegal/herbal “legal” high Substances.

Guidelines.

Where there is evidence or suspicion that a student is using or under the influence of an illegal/herbal “legal” high substance the following procedures will be followed.

The teacher involved will immediately isolate the student concerned from fellow students whilst continuing supervision of the student.

Report as soon as possible to Principal, Deputy Principal or Year Head.

If information received indicates that there are grounds for concern, the Principal/Deputy Principal/Year Head shall

Contact the Parents/Guardians of the student concerned.

- A. Discuss the situation with the student in the presence of Parent/Guardian and Guidance Councillor, Chaplain or Teacher of student’s choice.
- B. If there is no substantial evidence or admission of misuse, no further action will be taken, but vigilance will be maintained.
- C. Where there is substantial evidence of evidence or admission of misuse, the following is recommended

The student will be suspended immediately.

- i. That the student concerned, with Parental permission, undergo Immediate medical examination.
- ii. That the student concerned be required to enrol in an appropriate counselling programme as determined by the school in consultation with parents.
- iii. The Principal shall refer the case to the B.o.M. and present to the Board a full report outlining the facts of the case.
- iv. A detailed record of each incident be kept by the Principal.

Coláiste Cholmcille will review, monitor and evaluate this policy and all related work and procedures on an ongoing basis to ensure legal compliance and the maintenance of best practise.

