

**Scoil Mhuire
Maigh Cuilinn**

**Polasaí
maidir le
Mí-Úsáid
Substaintí**

**Substance
Use
Policy**

Scoil Mhuire Maigh Cuilinn

Policy on Alcohol, Tobbacco and Drug use

Introduction

Scoil Mhuire is committed to addressing the needs of the whole school in relation to drugs.

The policy has been drawn up and accepted by the Principal, Teachers, Parents/Guardians, Board of Management and Students.

This policy was drawn up with reference to the *Guidelines for developing a School Substance Use Policy 2002*.

It is necessary that all involved work together to implement this policy. It is vital that parents/guardians actively work with the school to implement this policy to ensure their children's health and safety. In this policy "Drug" means any substance which changes the way the body functions, mentally, physically or emotionally. The School recognises that drugs both legal and illegal are available in the local community and that the School, as part of that community, has an important role in terms of education, prevention, support and the handling of drug related incidents.

Our Mission Statement

As stated in the School's mission statement Scoil Mhuire is dedicated to the creation of a pleasant, relaxed, safe, controlled learning environment providing for the personal, social, intellectual, moral and spiritual development of each child. We wish to enable each child to realize their maximum potential, to develop self-confidence, security and to develop as well adjusted human beings and responsible citizens.

These are the principles that inform this policy.

Objectives of this Policy

- ✓ To make our school a safe and healthy place for our staff, our pupils and their families
- ✓ To promote self-esteem and self-confidence among students.
- ✓ To equip our students with personal and social skills.
- ✓ To enable our students to make informed, healthy and responsible decisions.
- ✓ To provide clear and age appropriate information on drugs.

The Scope of the Policy

Scoil Mhuire does not accept the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs in the school, or on outside activities or in non-school time by any member of the school community.

Scoil Mhuire does not accept the possession, use or supply of alcohol or tobacco in the school or on school activities by any member of the school community.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted at any time in the school buildings or on the school ground.

Staff and students are not permitted to smoke cigarettes on the school premises or in any other place.

Visitors to our school must comply with the no smoking policy.

Pupils found smoking on school premises will be reported to the Principal and parents will be informed.

Alcohol

The possession or consumption of alcohol is not permitted at any time in the school buildings or on the school grounds.

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 him/herself from the workplace, in the interests of the safety, health and welfare of the employee and others.

In the case of employees who are at work under the influence of an intoxicant, disciplinary procedures may be implemented.

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 forcibly remove the person in question.

Solvents

The School does not accept the misuse of solvent based substances by any person under any circumstances at any time.

Markers, glues, thinners and other solvent based products etc. should be kept in filing cabinet/ teacher's desk in each classroom.

Solvents such as glues, thinners (*Tippex*), spray paints, deodorant sprays, etc. deemed to have harmful effects on pupils, will not be allowed to be used by students unsupervised.

Illegal Drugs

The School does not accept the abuse of illegal drugs or narcotics by any person under any circumstances at any time.

Should the Principal/Deputy Principal have reason to believe than any person on the school premises is in possession of or under the influence of illegal drugs, he/she will contact the Gardaí and make a report.

Prescribed Medicines

Students with particular health issues, e.g. anaphylaxis, asthma, epilepsy etc. may have prescribed or "over the counter" medicines for legitimate personal use only. These medicines, with the exception of inhalers for asthma, must remain in the possession of the class teacher during the school year.

Parents of pupils who require medical drugs in school long term must inform the school. The School, and in particular the class teacher must be informed if a student has a medical condition that requires the use of medical drugs.

Implementation of this Policy

The education of children regarding alcohol, tobacco and drugs will primarily be done by the class teachers via the school's S.P.H.E. Programme.

The school will also draw on the expertise available from the community i.e. Parents, Doctors, Gardaí, Guest Speakers etc.

Parents/Guardians will be consulted on the need for drug education and will be informed of what is happening in the School. Drug information and drug awareness sessions are will be organised for parents by the Parents' Association.

Ratification and Review

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire and will be reviewed by the Board in the light of experience and with reference to the latest D.E.S. Circulars and H.S.E. Guidelines.

Dissemination of Policy

Copies of this policy will be made available to all the school community It will be posted on the school's website and will be available from the secretary's office.