

Scoil Mhuire na Dea Chomhairle

Substance Use Policy

Definition

A drug can be defined as a chemical, which alters how the body works, or how the person behaves or feels.

'Drugs' mentioned in this policy refer to any one or all of the following:

- Over the counter (OTC) medicines
- Prescription medicines
- Tobacco/Nicotine/Vaping products
- Alcohol
- Solvents
- Illegal Drugs

School Position on Substance Use

Smoking and Vaping

Scoil Mhuire is a strictly no smoking or vaping area. Staff, parents and students are not permitted to smoke cigarettes/vape on school premises, during school activities or on school tours. All persons on school premises must comply with the no smoking/vaping policy.

Alcohol

Scoil Mhuire is a strictly no alcohol area. Staff, parents and students are not permitted to possess or consume alcohol on the premises during school activities or on school tours.

Solvents

Scoil Mhuire forbids the misuse of solvents by staff, parents or students on the premises during school activities or on school tours. All solvents must be kept in a safe, secure place. Any use of solvents by students is forbidden unless under the direct supervision of a teacher.

Medication

Any administration or use of medication on school premises during school activities or on school tours must comply with the school policy on Administration of Medication. Students are not permitted to share their medication under any circumstances.

Drugs

Staff, parents and students are prohibited from possession, use or supply of illicit drugs on school premises during school activities or on school tours.

Management of Alcohol, Tobacco, Vape and Drug-Related Incidents

Incidents involving the alcohol, tobacco, vape and drug use might be:

- Use or suspected use of alcohol, tobacco, vape and/or drugs on the school premises or during a school-related activity
- Intoxication
- Disclosure about use
- Possession of these substances

Training and Education

The Board of Management intend to provide a safe and secure learning environment for our students. We believe that education is power and therefore education concerning substance abuse will be taught to pupils through the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum.

Procedures for Managing an Incident

Incidents involving pupils:

- Class teacher will speak to the student about the incident and record details of the conversation and inform the Principal/Deputy Principal.
- Principal/Deputy Principal will meet with the student and discuss the incident further.
- Student's parents/guardians will be notified and asked to attend a meeting with the Principal/Deputy Principal and the student.
- Due care will be important in deciding on a balance between a pastoral and a disciplinary response. In keeping with our Code of Behaviour, the above incidences would be considered serious offences and will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.
- Depending on the severity of the incident, the Gardaí may have to be notified.

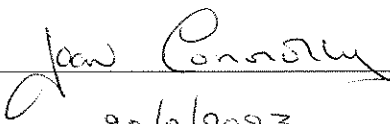
Incidents involving teachers:

- The teacher may be asked to leave the premises if he/she presents school under the influence.
- Principal/Deputy Principal will speak with the teacher about the incident and record details of the conversation referring to the Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers.
- Depending on the severity of the incident, the Gardaí may have to be notified.

Incidents involving parents/guardians:

- The parent/guardian may be asked to leave the premises if he/she presents school under the influence. Pupils will not be released to parents/guardians who are under the influence.
- Principal/Deputy Principal will speak with the parent/guardian about the incident and record details of the conversation.
- Depending on the severity of the incident, the Gardaí may have to be notified.

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire na Dea Chomhairle on the 20th of February 2023. It will be reviewed annually or as the need arises.

Signed: 
Date: 30/2/2023

