

**Ardcoil Mhuire**

Mackney, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.  
H53CP40

Principal: Mr. Pauric Hanlon  
Dep. Principal: Ms. Lilian Hynes



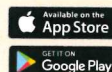
Telephone: 090 9642206 / 9643307

Email: [office@ardscoilmhuire.ie](mailto:office@ardscoilmhuire.ie)

Website: [www.ardscoilmhuire.com](http://www.ardscoilmhuire.com)



Ardcoil Mhuire App



# Substance Use Policy



**CEIST**  
Catholic Education  
An Irish Schools Trust



**Scoileanna Cothaithe Sláinte**  
**Health Promoting Schools**

# **ARDSCOIL MHUIRE, BALLINASLOE**

## **POLICY ON SUBSTANCE USE**

**Reviewed 2015**

Adopted by the Board of Management on the 09-09-2015

### **SCOPE:**

This policy applies to students, staff and all other users of the school premises and/or school grounds, including parents and visitors. It is in force at all times, on the school premises, during school time, and during school related activities (including school tours and sports activities).

### **DEFINITION:**

- For the purposes of this policy, substance should be taken to mean any drugs whose use by school children is prohibited by law, for example alcohol, tobacco, solvents, inhalants and illicit drugs.
- A drug in its broadest sense is any substance which changes the way the body functions i.e. mentally, physically or emotionally
- A reasonable suspicion is a suspicion, backed by evidence such as statements by pupils, comments by pupils in class or otherwise, unusual or bizarre behaviour consistent with substance use.

### **LINK TO MISSION/VISION AIMS:**

This policy is consistent with our Mission statement. Aims which strive to enable students to develop responsible attitudes towards themselves and others. It is part of a general pastoral approach which fosters the development of each pupil within an atmosphere of care, concern and respect.

### **RATIONALE:**

- The Education Act provides that schools shall use available resources to "promote the moral, spiritual, social and personal development of students and provide health education for them, in consultation with their parents".
- The National Drugs Strategy, which is now Government Policy, requires schools to have a policy on substance use in place.
- Drugs and their misuse, is an area of concern for pupils, parents and teachers.
- The majority of young people do not take drugs. It is important to reassure these young people that their choice is responsible and positive and to support them in their choice of a healthy lifestyle.
- Drugs have the potential to undermine good order and discipline in the school, and it is essential that appropriate steps are taken to ensure this does not happen.

### **GOALS:**

- To provide a safe environment so that learning can take place.
- To reflect the school ethos.
- To encourage good practice.
- To protect students
- To support staff
- To provide a consistent response to drugs issues.
- To formulate a framework for managing incidences of substance use.
- To increase awareness of the risks associated with misuse of drugs.

## POLICY CONTENT:

### Education concerning substance use

Education will be provided about alcohol and drugs in the content of Religious Education, Science, S.P.H.E., Home Economics and other relevant subject areas.

Planned and integrated contributions from visitors and agencies, which compliment the school's approach and values, may add to the range of the programme.

A Drugs Awareness Programme will be provided for staff on a regular basis.

### Management of alcohol, tobacco and drug related incidents

It is forbidden to possess, supply, offer for sale, use or encourage the use of alcohol, illegal drugs or other harmful substances, including solvents and inhalants. Smoking is strictly forbidden in the school, on school grounds and on school related activities. This is consistent with the Code of Behaviour (School Rules).

## Illicit Drugs

It is strictly forbidden:

1. To be in possession of, to use or to traffic in illegal drugs.
2. To provide information to other pupils regarding contacts or places where illegal drugs may be obtained.
3. To possess any items that may be deemed to be used in the taking of illicit substances, any written, printed, audio or visual material promoting the use of illicit substances is strictly prohibited and offenders will be dealt with in accordance with the Code of Behaviour.



To be engaged in any of the above activities on the school premises or on the way to or from school or at any social or extra-curricular activity organised by the school is viewed as a very serious offence and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour which incorporates the policy on Suspension & Expulsion.

Any student who is aware that students are engaging in any of the above activities is expected to report to the Principal. Any information given to the school regarding the use of illegal drugs will be handled sensitively.

The Year Head, Deputy Principal or Principal will investigate all allegations of drug misuse and will implement an appropriate sanction as per Code of Behaviour sanctions. As part of the investigation, students may be required to supply a written account of their knowledge of any incident(s). The school will note the allegation and the outcome of the investigation in accordance with its record-keeping policy.

#### Alcohol:

Students are forbidden to have in their possession or to consume alcohol either on the school premises or when going to and from school or at any social or extra-curricular activities organised by the school.

Students who engage in such activity are in strict breach of school rules and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour which incorporates the policy on Suspension & Expulsion.

### **Solvent/Inhalent abuse:**

Students may not abuse solvents, aerosols or any other substances that could be harmful or open to being abused on the school premises or when going to or from school or at any other social or extra-curricular activity organised by the school.

Students who engage in such activity are in strict breach of school rules and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour which incorporates the policy on Suspension & Expulsion.

### **Tobacco:**

Smoking on the school premises, on school grounds, on school related activities or on the way to and from school is strictly forbidden. This rule also to the smoking of e-cigarettes.

Students who engage in such activity are in strict breach of school rules and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour which incorporates the policy on Suspension & Expulsion.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING POLICY.**

### **Board of Management:**

- To ensure that a policy is in place, that it is approved, implemented and reviewed.
- To decide on appeals by parents and/or pupils with respect to decisions made by Principal.

### **Principal and Senior Management:**

- To formulate draft policy, in consultation with staff, students, parents, Board and Trustees.
- To ensure that policy is implemented, reviewed and evaluated.
- To ensure that training is provided for staff when necessary.
- To respond to media enquiries, consistent with confidentiality policy

### **Staff:**

- To be vigilant in class and on school premises and to bring any information or reasonable suspicion to the attention of the Year Head/Deputy Principal or Principal as soon as possible.
- To monitor the implementation of the policy.
- To maintain confidentiality at all times.

### **Parents:**

- To support the policy and co-operate fully with the school in its implementation.
- To bring to the attention of the school authorities any concern or information they may have in relation to substance misuse.

### **Students:**

- To co-operate fully with the school in the implementation of the policy.
- To report any information or drug related incident to the Principal, Deputy Principal or other member of teaching staff.

### **PASTORAL APPROACH:**

The approach to this issue, is based on the principle that the school acts in loco parentis - that the primary concern must be the well being and safety of all the pupils in our charge, and that they will be treated with care, concern and respect. Students may be required to submit to counselling and/or regular drug tests. Banned substances will be confiscated. Reasonable suspicions that a student has engaged in the misuse of drugs or is dealing in illegal drugs, will be investigated and that suspicion will be communicated to their parents/guardians. The school will liaise with outside agencies, such as social workers as appropriate. At all times the principles of natural justice will apply.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Parents will be required, at the time of enrolment, to supply all relevant information regarding a pupil's prescribed medication to the school. Relevant staff should be aware if a student is on prescribed medication.

Parents will be informed of our policy on Substance Use, which contains reference to the sanctions for misuse.

### **MONITORING:**

Monitoring requires vigilance on the part of everybody. This policy will be monitored regularly to ensure that it is implemented and is effective.

### **SUCCESS CRITERIA**

- Successful implementation of this substance Use Policy
- The successful dealing of any breaches of this policy
- Positive feedback from teachers, parents and pupils

### **REVIEW & EVALUATION:**

Ongoing review and evaluation will take cognisance of changing information, legislation, developments in school based programmes,



feed back from parents/guardians, teachers and students. Procedures will be revised at regular intervals.

Signed:

John Fahy

Date:

09 SEPT 2015