

SUBSTANCE MIS-USE POLICY



BALBRIGGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Principal: Mr Emmet Sheridan

MISSION STATEMENT

We aim to provide a secure and caring environment which promotes effort, achievement and the enjoyment of learning, where students develop self-esteem, responsibility and self-management skills in an atmosphere of respect and mutual support, inspired by our Catholic tradition.

RATIONALE FOR THE POLICY

This policy has been put in place out of a concern to:

- promote the health and welfare of the whole school community.
- provide the protection necessary to all members of the school community.
- encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their actions.
- outline procedures to be followed in the event of a drug-related incident in the school.

DEFINITION

A drug, for the purpose of this policy is understood to be a chemical substance, which changes how the body functions, either physically, mentally or emotionally. The policy aims to address the following areas:

- Tobacco
- Vaping
- Alcohol
- Solvents
- Illegal substances
- Abuse of “over the counter” medicines and prescribed medication

EDUCATIONAL PROVISION

The school community recognises that the most effective education in this area aims at enhancing self-esteem and developing social competence, as well as providing information.

We aim to provide a drugs education programme for all students in the context of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) classes.

In 6th Year, drugs education is again dealt within the context of the Ballygall Project.

A CODE OF BEHAVIOUR TO PROMOTE HEALTH IN THE CONTEXT OF DRUG ABUSE

The school aims to encourage a healthy lifestyle for every member of the school community. For this reason, the school's code of behaviour states that:

- Tippex and aerosols are not allowed in school and will be confiscated.
- Smoking in any part of the school building or grounds is forbidden and illegal. The sanction for breach of this rule is payment of a fine and possible suspension.
- Substance abuse is strictly forbidden, as is possession of alcohol, unprescribed drugs or other harmful substances. Violation of this rule may lead to expulsion.

DEALING WITH DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL

Any staff member who is concerned about the behaviour of a pupil should consult immediately with the Principal or Deputy-Principal.

In the event that any student is found to be:

- in possession of prohibited substances or of drug-related equipment on the premises
- under the influence of prohibited substances on the premises
- using prohibited substances on the premises
- supplying prohibited substances on the premises,

the first priority will be to address the immediate health issues. In case of emergency, the Principal or Deputy Principal will be informed immediately. Parents will be contacted and a doctor if this is deemed necessary.

In all cases, parents will be informed and depending on the seriousness of the situation, may be asked to attend at the school immediately.

Any drugs found will be confiscated and illegal drugs will be handed over to the Gardai.

In instances where there are serious grounds for suspecting possession or use of prohibited substances, students' bags, jackets may be confiscated with a view to searching same. This will not be done without the prior consent of parents. The school always reserves the right to search student lockers, which are school property, without the consent of students or parents.

The school reserves the right to inform the Gardai of any incidents in this context that may arise.

For the protection of other students, any student suspected of, or found to be using prohibited substances will not be allowed to return to class, but will be placed under the supervision of the Principal, Deputy Principal or other nominated person. In this case, parents will be asked to attend at the school immediately to take the student home.

In all circumstances, illegal or suspected illegal substances will be handed over to the Gardai.

The Board of Management may request that a pupil undergo medical drug testing.

The Board of Management of the school will be the final arbiter regarding the student's position in the school.

SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS AT RISK

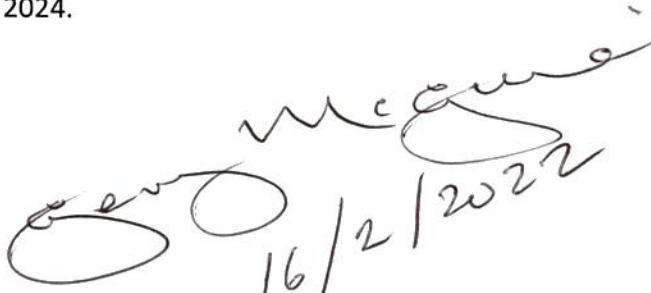
Students who are known to be at risk from substance mis-use may be referred to outside agencies where appropriate.

ISSUES OF CONFIDENTIALITY

No absolute confidentiality can be offered to pupils in respect of prohibited substances; particularly where information received poses a danger to themselves or others.

REVIEW OF POLICY:

The policy will be reviewed before February 2024.


16/2/2022