



Substance Use Policy

Scope:

This policy applies to pupils on school premises during school time and to pupils at all times engaged in school-related activities.

This policy applies to teachers while in charge of and in view of the children. It also applies to all other staff and school visitors on the school premises at all times.

Relationships to School's Ethos:

This policy reflects the overall ethos of our school. Carbury School is a primary school reflecting and promoting the ethos and characteristic spirit of the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist churches.

The school seeks to uphold and express the doctrines, moral teachings, traditions, practices and customs of the above-named churches. This distinctive spiritual and moral dimension permeates the core values and daily life of the school.

Rationale:

The reasons we need to have a Substance Use Policy are as follows:

1. The National Drugs Strategy, "Building on Experience is now Government policy and it requires schools to have a substance use policy in place.
2. The Education Act (1998) provides that schools should promote the social and personal development of pupils and provide health education for them.
3. The recent report from the National Advisory Committee on Drugs entitled "Drug Use Prevention" (November 2001) underlines the importance of schools developing substance use policies.

Objective:

The central objective of a school's substance use policy is the welfare, care and protection of every young person in line with the Education Act, 1988 and the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000.

Goals:

1. To help children develop a healthy attitude towards the use of substances.
2. To provide a safe environment for all of the school community.
3. To raise awareness among the whole school community about substance use in our area.
4. To establish procedures to deal with incidents of misuse in our school.

Policy Content:

1. Education concerning substance use

Education about alcohol, tobacco and drugs* is most effective if provided in the broader context of a Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) programme which is developmental and delivered in the context of a supportive whole school environment.

*Whenever the word drug is used in this policy the definition is: any chemical which alters how the body works, or how the person behaves or feels. This does not just include illegal drugs but also includes legal drugs such as caffeine, alcohol and nicotine.

The content will be age appropriate and will be taught using suitable programmes recognised by the Department of Education such as Walk Tall, Stay Safe etc. It will build on and supplement the SPHE programme.

The units will be taught every second year and will include the following contents:

Class Level	Unit(s) Taught
Junior Infants/Senior Infants	The safe use of medicine
First/Second Class	As above Distinguish between safe and dangerous substances found in school and home and to seek permission before exploring them
Third/ Fourth Class	Same as above What is a drug? Nicotine/Alcohol Identify potential risks to health and safety in the environment.
Fifth/ Sixth Class	Same as above Illegal Drugs Learning a safe strategy for dealing with unknown and dangerous substances.

The use of an outside visitor/speaker to enhance the work done in the class should always be considered in the context of the full SPHE programme and should be undertaken in the presence of a teacher.

2. Management of alcohol/tobacco and drug related incidents.

Rules for medicines	Children: Should not have nor use medicines in school. See Policy for the Administration of Medicine. Staff: Will take responsibility for any medication they have with them Storage: Only emergency medication will be stored on premises to ensure wellbeing of pupils.
Rules for nicotine	Smoking is prohibited at all times by all persons.

Use of or Possession of Alcohol	<p>Pupils are prohibited from having or using alcohol-based products.</p> <p>Staff: Except for occasional celebration in absence of pupils with the permission of the Board of Management.</p>
Rules for solvent-based products	<p>Children: Prohibited from having or using solvent based products such as aerosols etc.</p> <p>Parents are encouraged to provide their child with water-based correction fluids and water-based markers for school work.</p> <p>Staff: When using solvent based products staff will take all necessary precautions to ensure safe wellbeing of pupils.</p> <p>Storage: Will be stored safely at all times.</p>

Procedures for Managing Incidents involving Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug-Related Incidents

The school will respond to incidents involving alcohol, tobacco and drug use in a planned and considered way. In certain cases, it may be necessary to seek legal advice. Due care will be important in deciding on the balance between a pastoral and disciplinary response. An appropriate pastoral response to an incident involving alcohol, tobacco and drug use may include referral to a support agency.

Where a member of staff requires support, schools may consider facilitating links with an Employee Assistance Scheme.

1. A pupil found with a prohibited substance, or suspected to be using a prohibited substance. If a situation occurs the following procedures will be put into place.
 - a) Confiscate
 - b) Investigate
 - c) Inform parents
 - d) Any further disciplinary action as required
 - e) Record incidents
2. Any substances found on the premises e.g. cigarette butts, alcohol will be disposed of safely to ensure wellbeing of pupils. Gardaí may be informed.
3. Any person appearing on the premises obviously intoxicated will be asked to vacate the premises immediately (with the permission of the Board of Management).
4. Any staff member found in breach of the policy, will be reminded of the policy, receive a verbal warning, followed by a written warning and any disciplinary action as required.
5. If any staff member becomes aware of a parent/guardian coming to collect a pupil, obviously under the influence of a substance and incapable of caring for the pupil, all reasonable steps will be taken to protect the wellbeing of the pupil. Gardaí may be informed.

Monitoring and Review Procedures

A record will be kept in school of all substance use incidents. There will be an annual meeting to monitor and review procedures each year. A copy of this policy will be published on the school website www.carburyschool.com.

Signed: Linda McMahon _____ Date: 1st December 2022
Principal

Derek Whitcraft
Chairperson of the Board of Management