



ST. CLARE'S COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

POLICY ON SUBSTANCE USE AND MISUSE

In keeping with its duty of care St. Clare's advocates for all students a healthy lifestyle and is obligated to educate all students in a safe and healthy environment.

Students are made aware in many areas particularly SPHE, Home Economics, Science and Religion of the effects of using/misusing substances that are harmful.

Our aims are as follows:

- To encourage by educational means a healthy life style for all.
- To enable students to make informed choices and to give them confidence to reject harmful substances.
- To provide students with accurate information re substances and the consequences of their use.
- To ensure that the school is a safe environment and free of such substances at all times.
- To offer help to students who wish to stop using such substances.

The following practices will apply:

Tobacco:

The building and grounds of St. Clare's Comprehensive School are smoke free areas. Smoking is prohibited here and on school related activities. Students who smoke will be dealt with under the School's Discipline Policy as follows:

- Parents will be informed
- Students will be suspended.
- Materials will be confiscated and destroyed.

Alcohol:

Alcohol may not be brought into the school's building or grounds. Students breaking this rule in school or on school related activities will be dealt with under the School's Discipline Policy as follows:

- Parents will be informed
- Students will be suspended.

Materials will be confiscated and destroyed.

Students are not allowed to enter premises that serve alcohol during school time i.e. from 9.00 a.m. to 4.10 p.m. or on any school related activity.

Solvents:

If a student misuses a solvent or is suspected of doing so the staff should

- Ensure the safety of the student
- Remove other students from the area.
- Inform the Principal/Deputy Principal/Pastoral Care Co-ord.

Give the student plenty of fresh air. If they are drowsy or asleep put them on their side to avoid choking vomiting occur. Retain evidence of material misused.

- Medical help will be sought
- Parents will be informed.

Illegal Substances:

Illegal substances may not be brought into the School building or grounds or used on school related activities. If a student infringes this rule the following will happen:

- Parents will be informed.
- The Gardaí will be informed.
- The student will be suspended while the matter is investigated.
- Where it is confirmed that trafficking in illegal drugs has taken place, the question of expulsion will be considered by the Board of Management.

Procedures for dealing with suspected use of illegal substances:

- Ensure the student's safety
- Report the matter to the Principal/Deputy Principal/Pastoral Co-ordinator
- Make a written record noting what caused concern.
- Supervise the student constantly.
- Another member of staff should be present
- Parents will be informed.
- The Police will be informed.
- Take responsibility for substances found.
- Assist with further investigation.

In each case the staff will be informed of the incident and of the action taken. The Student's name will remain confidential.

Help for students:

Where students seek help in discontinuing the use of harmful substances the school will provide advice and support, making use of external agencies.

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Ms. Mary Lynch
SPHE Co-ordinator: Ms. Karen O Driscoll
Guidance Counsellor: Ms. Mary Lynch
Chaplain: Fr. John Sexton.