

Coláiste Éinde

Substance Abuse Policy

This Policy on Substance Abuse Awareness is

- In keeping with the ethos of Colaiste Einde as a Christian, caring school.
- As recommended in Action 43 of the National Drug Strategy 2001 – 2008
- Part of the School Development Plan

This Policy applies to:

Staff, Visitors to the School, People using the School Facilities, within the boundaries of the School Grounds, and to Students throughout the whole school day, either on or off the school premises, or while on school activities, outings, or trips.

Rationale:

In today's world, young people are exposed to the wide misuse of drugs. The purpose of this policy is:

- To educate all school users – parents, pupils and staff – about and to protect them from the dangers that drugs pose.
- To clarify the rights and responsibilities of pupils, staff, parents and management in relation to the use of drugs.
- To facilitate fair and equitable treatment in all cases
- To facilitate compliance with the law.

Goals of the policy

Coláiste Éinde is committed to

Encouraging healthy living

Providing a safe environment for all who work in and use the school

The proper use of prescribed drugs

Creating an awareness of drug related issues for students, staff and parents.

The Policy will focus on:

- Strategies for prevention of substance misuse problems through the S.P.H.E and other programmes.
- Procedures for dealing with drug incidences in the school.
- Guidelines and information for teachers to improve their response to the problem of substance misuse.

This document should be read with the Code of Behaviour/Discipline policy of the school.

The school wishes to make clear that the primary role of substance misuse prevention rests with the parents.

Definition of a Drug:

A Drug can be defined as a chemical, which causes changes in the way the human body functions mentally, physically or emotionally. For the purpose of this policy we are concerned with drugs which have the power to change a previous mood and the way a person thinks about things and drugs or which the taker may become physically or more often psychologically dependent.

Drug Education:

Drug Awareness Education will be part of the SPHE course for each of the three years up to Junior Cert. However, it is to be desired that this important topic will be dealt with in all years of the school in a distinct and obvious way.

Drug Education will be provided for staff and parents on an ongoing basis through the use of Guest Speakers from the relevant agencies. Speakers will also be invited to address the pupils within the context of the Drug Education Awareness Programme.

Drug related Incidents:

Colaiste Einde is committed to applying fair and considered responses to Drug Related Incidents in the school. Tobacco smoking incidents and incidents involving alcohol will be dealt with in accordance with the School's Code of Behaviour.

Drug Related Incidents, involving illegal drugs, MUST be reported immediately to the School Principal who will contact parents/guardians without delay.

If illegal drugs (or substances suspected of being illegal) are found, they shall be kept by the Principal or someone responsible designated by the Principal in a secure place until the arrival of the Gardai and then handed over to them.

In cases where the School Authorities suspect that any student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, parents will be contacted and asked to take the student home until an investigation takes place. Disciplinary action may follow.

In dealing with Drug Related Incidents, the school will be attentive to the rights and needs of the individual, the good of the general student body, the duties of the school and the common good. Where appropriate, help will be sought from other agencies, e.g. Juvenile Liaison Officers, counselling services, Western Health Board, etc.

Sanctions/Disciplinary Issues

As per the discipline policy of the school a graded system of firm and consistent sanctions will apply to students involved in drug related incidents. Sanctions including suspension or expulsion may be imposed depending on the seriousness of the incident. In cases of repeated serious misbehaviour and in the case of sale of illegal drugs, expulsion will be recommended.

Counselling/Support of Those Involved:

Students directly involved in illicit drug incidents will be seen by the School Counsellor, who may refer to specialist external agencies if deemed appropriate.

Students or other members of the school community who wish to speak to someone about their own drug use or that of a person they are concerned about, are invited to approach the Principal, Year Head, School Counsellor, Chaplain or a member of staff. Where voluntary, such disclosures are seen as a desire to seek help and will therefore not be subject to disciplinary consequences, but will be subject to the confidentiality procedures already operating in the school.

Disclaimer:

While Colaiste Einde has made every effort to make this policy as understandable as possible for all, the school cannot be held responsible for any misunderstandings or misinterpretations of the foregoing. If any person is unclear about all or any of the provisions of this policy they are asked to seek clarification from school personnel as soon as possible.

The Substance Abuse Policy for Colaiste Einde was amended at a meeting of the Board of Management on

.....1st... ofMay....., 2012....

Signed : _____
Chairperson.

Date: _____