



SN Tulach Uí Chadhain

Substance Use Policy

Introduction:

This policy has been drafted in consultation with teachers, parents and Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Bríde, Tulach Uí Chadhain. Scoil Naomh Bríde is committed to addressing the needs of the whole school in relation to the use of drugs. In this policy “drug” is taken to mean any substance which changes the way the body functions, mentally, physically or emotionally. The school recognizes that drugs both legal and illegal are available in the wider community and that the school, as part of that community, has an important role in terms of education, prevention, support and the handling of drug related incidents.

Aims:

This policy aims:

- To help make our school a safe and healthy place for our staff, pupils and their families
- To clarify the rules around the use of substances by members of the school community on school grounds or at school related activities
- To provide clear guidance on the procedures around drug use and misuse
- To communicate the school’s role in the promotion of drug and alcohol awareness in an age-appropriate manner

Scope of this Policy:

This policy applies to students, teachers, auxiliary staff members, users of the school premises, and visitors, i.e. every person who enters the building or grounds. It is applicable during school-time – including breaks and to ALL school related activities. It applies to the school building and grounds and to any area where a school related activity takes place, e.g. School Tour.

Smoking:

Smoking is not permitted at any time in the school building or on the school grounds. Staff and students are not permitted to smoke cigarettes on the school premises or in any other place while engaging in a school related activity. Visitors to our school must comply with the no smoking policy.

Alcohol:

The possession or consumption of alcohol is not permitted at any time in the school building or on the school grounds. The only caveat to this is where alcohol is being donated as part of fund-raising efforts by the school. In this case every effort should be made to ensure that the

alcohol is removed from school grounds as soon as practicable and stored appropriately.

Illegal Drugs:

The school does not accept the abuse of illegal drugs or narcotics by any person under any circumstance at any time.

Prescribed Medicines:

Students with particular health issues; e.g. anaphylaxis, asthmas, epilepsy etc. may have prescribed medicines for legitimate personal use. These medicines should be stored and administered in line with the school's Administration of Medicines policy.

Promotion of drug and alcohol awareness:

Scoil Naomh Bríde recognises the important role it plays in the promotion of drug and alcohol awareness in the community. The school takes this role very seriously and ensures appropriate topics are covered in an age-appropriate manner through its SPHE programmes. Occasionally the school may engage speakers to present to the children on a variety of topics around drug and alcohol awareness in an age-appropriate manner.

Management of incidents of substance abuse/misuse:

The Board of Management shall ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that pupils and other persons in the workplace are not exposed to risks to their safety, health or welfare from persons under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. This includes all school related activities taking place under the supervision of a teacher, with the Board's approval, and both within and away from school premises.

Every school employee shall, while at work, ensure that he or she is not under the influence of an intoxicant as required by Section 13 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005.

Should the Principal and/or Deputy Principal have reasonable grounds to believe that a staff member is unfit for work, due to being under the influence of an intoxicant, the Principal and/or Deputy Principal shall ask that person to remove him/herself from the workplace, in the interests of the safety, health and welfare of the employee and others. In the case of employees who are at work under the influence of an intoxicant, disciplinary procedures may be implemented.

If a member of staff has reasonable grounds to believe that a parent or adult collecting a pupil from school or presenting themselves on the premises for another reason is unfit to be on the premises or to take care of the said pupil, the Principal and/or Deputy Principal will be informed and the duty of care will apply to the pupil. All necessary steps will be taken to protect the pupil and safeguard their best interests.

In the event that a staff member or any other person, referred to above, refuses a reasonable request to remove him/herself from the premises, the Principal and/or Deputy Principal may

call the Gardaí to forcibly remove the person in question.

The Board of Management acknowledges its responsibility in promoting the welfare at work of teachers. An Employee Assistance Service is available, the details of which have been communicated to teaching staff. In the event that substance abuse appears to be adversely affecting the performance and/or attendance pattern of any member of the teaching staff, the Board of Management may request such staff member to contact the Employee Assistance Service.

The Board of Management also acknowledges its responsibility in promoting the welfare at work of all other staff members. In the event that substance abuse appears to be adversely affecting the performance and/or attendance pattern of any member of the non-teaching staff, the Board of Management may request such staff member to seek counseling or other professional intervention.

All incidents, relating to the presence of persons at school, under the influence of an intoxicant, shall be recorded and reported as soon as possible to the Board of Management.

The Board of Management shall consider all such reports and decide on the appropriate action to be taken in the circumstances of each particular case. Breaches of conduct in relation to substance abuse/misuse are considered serious breaches of school's Code of Behaviour.

Ratification and Review

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 21/06/2021 and will be reviewed every 3 years. The most recent review was on the 06/02/2025. The policy has been made available to school personnel, published on the school website and provided to the Parent's Association.

Signed



Date: 06/02/2025

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed



Date: 06/02/2025

School Principal