



Coláiste na Carráige

Substance Misuse Policy

Ráiteas Bunchuspóra

Cuireann Coláiste na Carraige fáilte roimh achan bhall den phobal. Déantar iarracht sármhaitheas a bhaint amach trí sheirbhísí iomlánaíocha oideachais agus tacaíochta a chur ar fáil atá bunaithe ar phrionsabail measa, comhoibrithe agus comhpháirtíochta.

MISSION STATEMENT

Coláiste na Carraige welcomes all members of the community and strives for excellence in delivering holistic educational services and supports based on the principles of respect, co-operation and partnership.

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1.1 Scope of policy

This policy applies to students, teachers, ancillary staff, parents, the Board of Management and all users of the school buildings and grounds at all times. It also applies to students and staff while away on school related activities.

This policy is focused on four key areas:

- 1 Education Programme concerning substance use
- 2 Managing of tobacco, alcohol and other drug related incidents
- 3 Training and staff development
- 4 Monitoring, review and evaluation of the policy

1.2 Relationship to school's mission statement

In keeping with its duty of care and its obligation to educate all students in the broadest sense, the school sets out to create a safe and healthy environment. It advocates for students a healthy lifestyle and recognises its duty to inform them of all relevant matters. It recognises that it is important that young people should be helped to avoid forming habits, which may have detrimental effect on their healthy development.

1.3 Rationale

- To meet the needs of our students living in a world where they are presented with many challenges which effect their health and well being and where exposure to tobacco, alcohol and drugs is part of their reality.
- To provide health education which promote the social and personal development of students as required by the Education Act 1998.
- To meet with Government policy as set down in the National Drugs Strategy, 'Building on Experience'.
- *The Social Personal and Health Education curriculum, of which substance misuse prevention education is an integral part, is a mandatory subject on the Junior Certificate curriculum.*

- *The National Drugs Strategy (interim) 2009-2016 requires every school to have a substance use policy in place.*
- *Action 21 of the National Drugs Strategy (interim) 2009-2016 mandates the Department of Education and Skills to monitor the implementation of substance use policies in schools through the whole school evaluation process as operated by the Inspectorate. It is also mandated to ensure that best practice is disseminated to all schools.*
- *The 2003 European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs (E.S.P.A.D.) report highlighted the seriousness of the problem among 16 year olds in Ireland, as compared to the other 34 E.S.P.A.D. countries surveyed. Alcohol was identified as being the dominant drug of misuse in Ireland, with girls ranking higher than boys in terms of regular alcohol use. In terms of drug use in Ireland, there was a notable increase in lifetime use of any illicit drug between 1999 (32%) and 2003 (40%), up eight per cent.*

1.4 School Policy

Goals and Objectives of policy

- To advocate by educational means a healthy lifestyle for all.
- To enable students to make informed choices and to develop their ability to reject pressures to use harmful materials.
- To provide students with accurate information about substances at all times and the consequences of their use and misuse.
- To ensure that the school is free of such substances at all times and that the school environment inhibits their use.
- To offer help to any student who wishes to cease using substances and to enable him/her to return to a lifestyle free from dependence.

2 Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Education Programmes

The school will ensure that substance use education will be provided for all students through the SPHE programmes and where practicable, through work in many areas of curriculum particularly CSPE (Civic, Social and Political Education), Science, Home Economics and Religious Education. Students will be made aware of the effect's both long and short term, of using substances which are harmful.

Through the SPHE programme guidance will be available from the Department of Education and Skills and local authorities. The SPHE Programme welcomes

partnership with local Health Boards, the Garda and other relevant bodies. School visits from representatives will be ongoing for all students through the SPHE programme, facilitated by the SPHE Co-ordinator.

3 Managing Substance Use Related Incidents

3.1 Policy

Coláiste na Carriage does not allow the possession or use of prohibited substances by any student in the school, on school trips or during school-related activities. An exception will be made for the use of a prescribed drug in accordance with medical advice and prescription. It is the responsibility of parents to inform the school when a student is using a prescribed medication.

Students who possess, use or supply tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs on the school premises or during a school related activity shall be dealt with under the school's Code of Behaviour.

3.2 Possession or use of tobacco or alcohol

- Prohibited materials will be confiscated.
- Parents/Guardians will be informed.
- The student(s) will be dealt with under the school Code of Behaviour.
- A written report on the incident will be completed and filed.

3.3 Solvents or other legal substances

Where misuse of legally held substances is discovered or suspected by a staff member

- Ensure the safety of the student
- Remove other students from the area
- Inform a member of staff with First Aid training
- Report the matter without delay to the Principal or Deputy Principal
- Complete a written report on the incident

The Principal will

- Assess the situation
- Seek medical assistance if that should seem advisable
- Inform parents
- Contact relevant authorities

- Complete and file a written report on the incident

3.4 Illegal substances

3.5 Where a member of staff suspects that a student possesses or has been using illegal substances:

- The member of staff should access the situation and ensure the student's safety.
- The matter must be reported to the Principal or Deputy Principal as soon as possible.
- A written report noting what has caused concern must be made to the Principal.

3.6 Where illegal substances are present or where a student has been using such substances the actions outlined below will be taken:

- Parents will be informed. The student is likely to be suspended while the matter is being investigated, by relevant authorities.
- Where an illegal substance has been found on the premises the Garda, JLO (Juvenile Liaison Officer) will be informed.
- *Where it is confirmed that trafficking in illegal drugs has taken place the person(s) concerned will be suspended while the question of expulsion is considered.*
- Where the student is found using an illegal substance for the first time, a written guarantee must be given from a parent/guardian that the student will get counselling and help from appropriate agencies. Where possible written confirmation that the student has received counselling will be sought. This written guarantee must be given on or before the student returns.
- Where the student seeks help in discontinuing the use of harmful or potentially harmful substances the school will provide advice, making use of relevant external agencies.

Procedure for dealing with instances where illegal substances are believed to be involved:

3.7 Where it is suspected that a student has in his/her possession illegal substances:

- The student must be supervised constantly in a private area, if possible.
- The student must not be afforded an opportunity to destroy or hide the material.
- A witness i.e. another member of staff, should be present at all times.

- The Principal or Deputy Principal must be informed as soon as possible.
- A written report of every action must be made.

The Principal will

- 1 Contact the student's parents informing them of the situation and asking them to come to the school to collect the student.
- 2 Inform the Garda (JLO).
- 3 Ensure that the student is supervised at all times until he/she leaves the school premises.
- 4 Assist with the further investigation of the circumstances if such investigation is considered necessary in each case the staff will be informed that an incident has taken place and of the consequent action taken. The student's name will remain confidential.
- 5 Staff will be advised to be especially alert as the problem may be wider than has been detected at that moment.

The Principal will deal with all enquiries from the media.

Part 4 Training and Staff Development

Opportunities for staff training in the area of substance use/misuse will be facilitated by the school.

This training will be facilitated by local agencies including Regional Development Officer from the North Western Health Board, namely the SPHE Support Service.

This training will be further supported by local agencies throughout the year including Health Education and Health Promotion, Smoking Cessation Support and Adolescent Counselling Services.

Briefing of new staff with regard to this policy will be carried out as part of the school's mentoring arrangements.

Part 5 Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

The policy on Substance Use/Misuse Coláiste na Carraige will be reviewed every two years in September, any amendments will be presented to the entire staff, parents and the Board of Management for consideration.

Signed: _____
Principal

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Chairperson Board of Management

Date: _____

Date of next Review: _____

