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Kilbrittain N.S.

Kilbrittain

Co. Cork.

Date of Review: September 2023

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Substance Use Policy

Introductory Statement:

This policy was formulated by the staff, Board of Management and parents of Kilbrittain N.S. were involved.

Rationale:

This policy on substance use is important in order to develop a shared understanding of the term 'drug' and to define the school's agreed position in relation to drug related issues. The formulation of this policy will help to equip the school community of Kilbrittain N.S. to deal with issues relating to substance misuse in a planned and considered way and in accordance with statutory responsibilities.

Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school:

Kilbrittain N.S. seeks to enable each child to develop his/her potential and to provide a safe and secure environment for learning.

Aims:

- To ensure the welfare, care and protection of every young person as provided for in the Education Act, 1998 and the Education Welfare Act 2000.
- To provide pupils with information and skills through engagement with the SPHE curriculum.
- To ensure that the school complies with legislative requirements and principles of good practice
- To manage drug related incidents in a planned manner
- To support parents and pupils in addressing drug misuse.

Content of Policy

1. The current provision regarding alcohol, tobacco and substance use education is as follows,

- Information on alcohol, tobacco and substance use is linked to SPHE objectives
- Kilbrittain N.S. defines the term 'drug' as any substance , which changes the way the body function –mentally, physically or emotionally

- Pupils are monitored and supervised by staff at all times during school hours
- The school promotes awareness of substance misuse and may invite speakers to deliver talks in the presence of the class teacher
- Education concerning substance use is delivered through specific modules in Religious Education and 'Walk Tall' programme for 3rd to 6th classes
- The entire school community is supportive of a substance use policy in Kilbrittain N.S.

2. The management of substance –related incidents

- The most likely incidents to occur would include disclosure about use, possession and/or supply on the school premises or during a school related activity.
- The principal establishes facts of incidents and relates to relevant staff members.
- Staff trained in First Aid are called upon if medical intervention is required
- Teachers are made aware of the need for confidentiality and the use of appropriate reporting procedures as per the Code of Behaviour and Child Protection policies
- Procedures for involving parents/guardians, parents are informed of incident; chairperson of the Board of Management is informed. Gardai are involved where the Board of Management establishes an incident as serious
- Gardaí visit Kilbrittain N.S. annually and address senior classes before transition to second level
- All media inquiries are referred to Chairperson
- Outside agencies available to support staff and pupils includes NEPS.

3. Legislation

The relevant laws to Kilbrittain N.S. are the Misuse of Drugs Acts, 1977 and 1984. Offences under these acts include "Possession with intent to supply" and "Possession for personal use"

4. Staff Development

- There is shared understanding of the contribution SPHE can make to the prevention of substance misuse
- Staff are aware of the contribution they can make to the prevention of substance misuse within their own classrooms e.g. by developing a supportive class/school environment
- Staff are made aware and sensitive to the signs and symptoms of substance misuse.

5. Parental involvement

- Parents are provided with a copy of Kilbriain N.S policy on Substance Use
- Parents are informed immediately if an incident related to their child

6. Links to other policies/procedures

- This policy crosses over with other policies in Kilbriain N.S namely, SPHE, Code of Behaviour, Health and Safety, Record Keeping.

Smoking

School Policy

- The school is a restricted smoking area.
- Students are not permitted to smoke or possess cigarettes on the school premises or in any other place during school related activities.
- Visitors will comply with the restricted smoking policy.
- Pupils found smoking on school premises will be reported to the Principal and parents will be informed.

Alcohol

School Policy:

- The school is an alcohol free area.
- Pupils will not be allowed to bring alcohol into the school or to consume alcohol in school or during any school activities.
- If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of alcohol, s/he will immediately inform the Principal and consult on what action should be taken.
- Where a student comes to school under the influence of alcohol, their parents will be called in to take them home.
- In the case where the child is under the influence of alcohol and where the parent/guardian is unable or unwilling to remove the child/children the local doctor or medical services will be contacted.
- If alcohol is required for an adult only school function, permission shall be sought from the B.O.M.

Illicit Drugs, Paraphernalia and Solvents

School Policy:

- Students are forbidden from being in possession of or using illicit drugs or misusing solvents in the school premises.

- Teachers are advised not to transport illicit substances at any time.
- In the case of suspected or actual possession or use of illegal drugs on the school premises or on a school related activity, every effort will be made to locate the offending substance and/or associated paraphernalia and remove same to locked secure location.

- The following Parties will be informed immediately:

- Chairperson of Board of Management
- Gardai
- Parents/Guardians will be contacted and requested to present themselves at the school or location of the school related activity where they will be informed of the incident.

Areas for development

- Staff in service on SPHE and its relation to substance misuse.
- Expert speakers as part of parent education/involvement in substance use

Success Criteria

- Feedback from teachers , pupils and parents
- Number /frequency of incidents relating to substance misuse.

Roles and responsibility

The entire school community including the Board of Management, principal teacher, class teachers and parent/guardians have a role in the implementation of this policy on substance use.

Signed: _____
Karen O'Donovan –Principal

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Imelda Hurley- Chairperson BOM

Date: _____

Ratified by Board of Management on:

Date