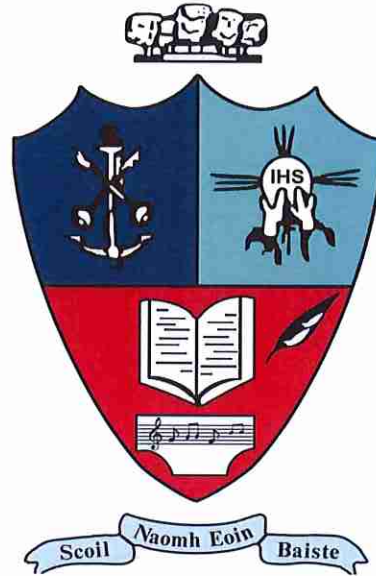


**St. John the Baptist  
Junior Boys' School**

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## **Substance Use Policy**

## **Substance Use Policy**

This policy addresses the education of children in relation to alcohol, tobacco, solvents and drugs and the procedures for managing incidents relating to these substances.

*A drug can be defined as a chemical which alters how the body works, or how the person behaves or feels.*

### **Rationale**

The central objective of our policy is the welfare, care and protection of every young person in line with the Education Act 1998 and the Education Welfare Act 2000. St. John the Baptist acknowledges that the school has an important role in terms of the education of children in relation to alcohol, tobacco, solvents and drugs. This policy reflects our school ethos and seeks to promote self-reliance, knowledge and skills to enable individuals within our school community to make healthy and safe choices.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Code of Behaviour Policy, Risk Assessment and Administration of Medications Policy.

The policy applies to all school personnel, parents/guardians, pupils, Board of Management and members of the community using the school building.

### **School Ethos**

The school believes that the personal and social development of each member of the school community is important. Good relationships are fostered, people feel valued and respected and there is genuine tolerance, fairness and support for those in difficulty.

As an Active School, we have an important role in enabling students to increase control over and improve their health.

Our school aims to:

- Promote holistic development of the pupil, encouraging respect for self, society and the world
- Provide a safe and secure environment for learning
- Support those who are experiencing difficulties
- Seek to engage partners in the education process
- Seek to support a healthy lifestyle for all, in a safe, supportive and non-threatening environment
- Actively promote self-esteem and self-awareness

## **Policy Content**

### **A. Education concerning Substance Use**

Education about the use of substances, prescription and over the counter drugs, alcohol, tobacco, solvents is best carried out by teachers through the inclusion of SPHE in the curriculum.

The school will adopt an age-appropriate approach to formal lessons on substance use as guided by the SPHE curriculum. Social and Personal, Health Education is timetabled into the curriculum and taught for 30 minutes per week by the class teacher. The methodologies used include discussion, artwork, co-operative games, circle time, stories, poems, songs and rhymes, role play and mime, group work, project work, brainstorming and movement.

Material from the following programmes will be used:

- Mindful Matters
- R.S.E
- Walk Tall
- Stay Safe
- Science
- Grow in Love
- S.P.H.E.
- Talks from outside visitors, e.g. An Garda Síochána,

When it is necessary to use glue, varnish or other similar products in the school, the dangers will be explained and they will be used under close adult supervision.

**Parents of Junior Infants receive a Welcome Pack which includes all aspects of SPHE.**

#### ***Best Practice Guidelines:***

- Class teacher has the primary role in the delivery of the substance misuse prevention education in the school setting
- Substance misuse prevention education must be delivered in the context of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)
- Information must be age, developmentally, culturally and environmentally appropriate
- An active learning approach is recommended

### **B. Management of tobacco/alcohol and drug related incidents**

Incidents involving alcohol, tobacco and drug use might include:

- Use or suspected use of alcohol, solvents, drugs, tobacco on the school premises or during a school-related activity
- Intoxication/ unusual behaviour
- Disclosure about use
- Finding these substances and/or associated paraphernalia
- Possession and/or supply on the school premises or during a school-related activity
- Other

The school should respond to incidents involving alcohol, tobacco and drug use in a planned and considered way. In certain cases, it may be necessary to seek legal advice. Due care will be important in deciding on the balance between a pastoral and a disciplinary response. An appropriate pastoral response to an incident involving alcohol, tobacco and drug use may include referral to a support agency.

**Procedures to be followed on the misuse of substances may include some or all of the following:**

- Assess the situation
- Seek medical help if necessary
- Any adult displaying signs of substance abuse will be asked to leave the premises
- Contact Parents
- Referral to outside agency
- Is it mandatory to contact Gardaí if an illegal substance is found on the premises
- Sanctions (Code of Behaviour)
- Report (Refer to Child Protection Guidelines)

**A record should be kept of any incident which occurs. The DLP or the DDLP will keep the record in a Special Incident Book.**

**Confidentiality**

People will be informed on a 'need to know' basis. Parents/ Guardians will be involved unless reporting would pose a threat to the child. In the case of illegal drugs the Gardaí will be informed by the principal

**Smoking – School Policy**

- Visitors, staff and parents will comply with the national non smoking policy
- Pupils found in possession of tobacco products on school premises will be reported to the Principal or Deputy Principal and his parents/guardians will be informed.
- Adults who have in their possession tobacco products for their own use, must keep them in their possession at all times and out of sight and reach of children

**Alcohol – School Policy**

- Pupils are not permitted to bring alcohol into the school or consume alcohol on the school premises or during any school activities
- If a staff member appears to be under the influence of alcohol, it will be reported to the Principal who will act in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy. Section 24 of the Education Act will be consulted accordingly.
- If an adult appears to be under the influence of alcohol when coming to collect a child, it must be reported to the Principal or Deputy Principal. The child's safety is paramount. The Child Protection protocols will be followed accordingly.

- If alcohol is required for an adult only school function, permission shall be sought from the Board of Management (An exception to this may be when donations of alcohol are made by parents to teachers as discretionary gifts etc. )

### **Illegal Drug Use – School Policy**

- Students, staff, parents and visitors are forbidden from being in possession of or using illegal drugs or solvents in the school premises.
- Illegal drugs found on the school premises will be locked away and the Gardaí contacted to dispose of them. School personnel are advised not to transport illegal substances at any time.
- If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of illegal drugs or solvents, s/he will immediately inform the Principal or Deputy Principal and consult on what action should be taken. Parents will be notified. The School's Child Protection protocols will be followed accordingly.
- If a staff member appears to be under the influence of an illegal substance, it will be reported to the Principal who will act in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy. Section 24 of the Education Act will be consulted accordingly.
- If an adult appears to be under the influence of an illegal substance when coming to collect a child, it must be reported to the Principal or the Deputy Principal. . The child's safety is paramount. The Child Protection protocols will be followed accordingly.

### **Management of Persons in the Workplace under the Influence of Drugs and/or Alcohol**

- 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 people under the influence of drugs/and or alcohol.
- 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. Disciplinary procedures may be implemented.
- If a member of staff has reasonable grounds to believe that a parent/guardian 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.

- In the event that substance abuse may be adversely affecting the performance and/or attendance pattern of any member of the teaching staff, the Board of Management may request said staff member to contact the Employee Assistance Service (Freephone:1800 411 057, WhatsApp: 0873690010)
- In the event that substance abuse may be adversely affecting the performance and/or attendance pattern of any member of non- teaching staff, the Board of Management may request said staff member to seek counselling 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, who shall consider all such reports and decide on the appropriate action to be taken in the circumstances of each particular case.

**Ratification of Policy**

The policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 14/3/2023

The policy has been made available to school personnel, published on the school website and provided to the Parents' Association.

Signed [Signature]  
Chairperson

Signed: [Signature]  
Principal

Date: 14/3/23

Date: 14/3/23