

SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY Glasheen Boys' School

(Latest Review – October 2013)

AIM / RATIONALE : To inform all members of our school community of our policy on Substance Misuse.

INTRODUCTION : Education about alcohol, tobacco and drugs is best carried out by teachers through the inclusion of **S.P.H.E.** Programme in the curriculum. This S.P.H.E. Programme also draws on the expertise available from the community i.e. Parents, Gardai and Health Board. The **Garda Liaison Officer** works in particular with 5th. Class in this area, and may be called upon to advise and/or deliver on substance abuse education when or if necessary. Talks from outside agencies such as **Togher Link Up** are also arranged for senior classes.

POLICY MAKERS: This policy was formulated by a committee including parents, our Health Promoting School Officer (Sheila Clark), Principal (Michael Daly) and members of Togher Link Up. It is subject to review by our Board of Management and suggestions from members of our school community are welcome.

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.
- Current legislation in relation to smoking in the workplace is enforced.
- 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.
- Tobacco will not be permitted as a prize for school raffles.
- Project work may be undertaken by the senior class teacher in relation to substance use.

Alcohol

- 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, she/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.
- Students breaking these rules will be dealt with according to the school's disciplinary procedure.
- If alcohol is required for an adult only school function, permission shall be sought from the B.O.M.

Illicit Drugs and Solvents

School Policy

- Students are forbidden from being in possession of or using illicit drugs or solvents in the school premises.
- Illicit drugs found on school premises should be locked away and the Gardai contacted to dispose of them. Teachers are advised not to transport illicit substances at any time.
- If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of illicit drugs or solvents, he/she will immediately inform the Principal and consult on what action should be taken.
- Where the school suspects trafficking of illicit drugs, an investigation will be carried out. Parents of any students involved will be informed. The advice and assistance of the Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer will be sought.
- The school B.O.M. will expect parents to inform the Principal or teacher if they suspect their child of drug taking.
- In certain cases it may be necessary to seek legal advice.

Evaluation

As part of the SDP of the school this policy will be reviewed by the staff at a staff meeting in the last term of each year or if an incident occurs, it may be necessary to evaluate the school's handling of the incident in the light of the current policy.

Evaluation may also be necessary in cognisance of changing information legislation or developments in the S.P.H.E. Programme of the school. This evaluation will take place within the framework of school planning.

This policy will be reviewed as and when necessary. It was last reviewed in October 2013.

Signed: *Mícheál Ó Buacháin*
(Chairperson Board of Management)