



*"Let the rooms be
full of happiness"*

*Scoil Íósaf National School,
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Roll No: 13647B*

Scoil Íósaf N.S., Baile na Martra, Uimhir Rolla: 13647B

Substance Misuse Policy

The central objective of a school substance misuse policy is the welfare, care, protection and education of every young person. It should equip the school to deal with issues relating to substance misuse in a planned and considered way.

This policy applies to pupils, teachers, ancillary staff, parents/carers and any other person using school facilities, at all times.

For the purposes of this policy, a drug is defined as a chemical, which causes changes in the way the human body functions mentally, physically or emotionally.

Exposure to substance misuse is part of a young person's life. In Scoil Íósaf NS we endeavour to equip our students with knowledge and skills about these substances. Scoil Íósaf NS acknowledges the seriousness of substance misuse.

All persons with access to the pupils in the care of Scoil Íósaf NS will not say or do anything that glorifies tobacco products, alcohol or illicit drugs in any way. The childhood of the children in our care must be respected at all times.

Scoil Íósaf NS follows the Walk Tall Programme when teaching about substance use and misuse. The Walk Tall Programme aims to:

- Avert / or at least delay experimentation with substances.
- Reduce the demand for legal / illegal drugs.
- Give primary school children the confidence, skills and knowledge to, make healthy choices.

Management of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Related Incidents:

1. Scoil Íósaf NS is a tobacco, alcohol, illicit drug and solvent free zone.
2. If a parent / carer is deemed to be under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs when collecting a child from school the following procedures must be followed,
 - (a) Attempt to keep the parent / carer in school until alternative care is arranged.
 - (b) Gardaí will be notified.
3. The Principal must be informed of any person, adult or child, under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs. Being under the influence of alcohol constitutes a serious misconduct and will be dealt with accordingly.
4. All matters concerning substance misuse will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. Information will remain private and will be disclosed on a strict "need to know" basis.
5. Should the need arise the Principal, or a nominated person, will handle all media queries. Scoil Íósaf NS will not comment on individual cases but will refer to school policy in relation to substance misuse.

A. Smoking / Cigarettes / E-Cigarettes:

1. Pupils found smoking or in possession of cigarettes or e-cigarettes will be dealt with in accordance with a serious breach of the Code of Behaviour.
2. Tobacco products will not be permitted as a prize for school raffles.

B. Alcohol:

1. Pupils / Teachers / Staff will not bring alcohol into the school, consume alcohol in the school or during school activities or when the school is in session.
2. If alcohol is used as a prize at school raffles the Board of Management must be notified. Prizes of alcohol, e.g. a bottle of wine must be given by an adult to another adult. Gifts of alcohol, e.g. a bottle of wine at Christmas, must be given from one adult to another.

C. Illicit Drugs and Solvents:

1. Illicit substances found on the school premises should be locked away and the Gardaí contacted.
2. The parents of any pupil found to be trafficking in illegal substances will be immediately informed. This also constitutes a serious breach of the Code of Conduct. The advice and assistance of the Gardaí will be sought.
3. It is expected that parents will notify the school, through the Principal, if they suspect their child of drug taking.

Conclusion:

This Policy Document forms part of the Curriculum Statement on S.P.H.E. The staff at Scoil Iósaf NS are committed to ongoing training and education in the area of S.P.H.E., supported when necessary by the Board of Management. This Policy document on S.P.H.E. reflects current practise in Scoil Iósaf NS.

Ratified by BOM June 2019. To be reviewed Spring 2021.