



Substance Use Policy

Scope of Policy:

It applies at all times when the school is in responsibility.

Management of Incidents:

Definition of a drug. It is our understanding that a drug is any chemical which alters how the body works, or how a person behaves or feels.

- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Over the counter drugs, solvents to include liquid 'Tippex' in a bottle, spray adhesives/Art & Crafts
- Prescription drugs
- Illegal drugs

Implementation Policy:

Pupils, staff, parents and visitors are expected to respect the rights of all members of the school community. Pupils, staff and visitors are asked to adhere to the following:

- An Mhodh Scoil is a public area and therefore a No Smoking Zone as per the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2002.
- It is not acceptable to consume alcohol in the school premises or on the grounds with the exception of designated areas during school events e.g. School Table Quiz, Parents Association functions, Staff party at end of term and Retirement functions.
- Pupils and staff must not present themselves in school while under the influence of alcohol or any illegal substance or a manifestation of same.
- Prescribed drugs will be allowed when permission is granted. The school should be informed or notified.
- The school authorities with the co-operation of parents will discourage the consumption of alcohol during extra-curricular socialisation and on organised field trips and outings. Pupils may not carry alcohol or any illegal substances on school organised outings.
- An Mhodh Scoil will not permit posters or any other media advertising tobacco, alcohol or any illegal substances to be displayed anywhere in the school environs.
- An Mhodh Scoil will support the development, promotion and delivery of alcohol, tobacco or illegal substances education as part of a health, wellness and life skills approach.



Management of Substance Use Related Incidents:

- The possessions, use, supply or finding of alcohol or illicit drugs constitutes a substance use related incident as would attendance at the school under the influence of these substances.
- Where an incident occurs in An Mhodscoil staff/management will respond in a firm but fair manner, with due regard for the safety, welfare and protection of the individual(s) involved and of other pupils in the school. In certain cases, it may be necessary to seek legal advice.
- Two types of response by management are possible:
 - (a) a disciplinary response and (b) a pastoral response.

In certain situations, a balance between pastoral care and a disciplinary response may be indicated. An appropriate pastoral response to an incident involving alcohol or any illegal substances may include referral to a support agency. Confidentiality will be considered of paramount importance.

Information concerning drug incidents will only be disclosed on a need to know basis. Parents of the child will be notified in respect of any drug related incident (an incident involving tobacco, alcohol, over the counter drugs, illegal drugs)