

Lusk N.S.

Chapel Road, Lusk, Co. Dublin
Phone/Fax: 8437738
Email: luskns.ias@eircom.net

Parish of St. Maccullin



S.N. Lusca

Bóthar an tSéipeil, Lusca, BÁC
Guthan/Facs: 8437738
Email: luskns.ias@eircom.net

Substance Use Policy

Introduction

This policy was devised and formulated by the school community, involving Board of Management, parents and staff of Lusk National School, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Education and Science and the C.P.S.M.A. and the agreement of the patron.

Ethos

Lusk National School is a co-educational, primary school, which strives to provide a well ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and addressed. While respect is paid to all religious and/or value systems, Lusk National School is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Archbishop of Dublin. This Substance Use Policy reflects the school ethos in that it aims to support and nurture a secure atmosphere within the school.

Scope of Policy

This policy applies to the whole school community, pupils, teachers, parents and ancillary staff and applies to all school related activities both on the school premises and elsewhere.

Aims of Policy

The aims of the substance use policy of Lusk National School are as follows:

- Primary prevention - We aim to protect our pupils from the harmful effects of substance misuse and try to prevent them from using tobacco, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs.
- Self-esteem - We aim to develop in our pupils' better self-esteem, through providing a positive school climate and atmosphere and through giving our pupils age appropriate information from educational programmes.
- Curriculum implementation – To provide education regarding substance abuse as part of the SPHE programme
- Clarify Procedures – To address procedures for managing incidents relating to these substances.

Rationale

Why is this policy necessary?

The world in which we live presents young people with many challenges, which affect their health and well-being. Exposure to alcohol, tobacco, drugs and other harmful substances is part of this reality. Schools need to reflect upon how they might provide for the needs of their student cohort and respond appropriately to what are sometimes sensitive and emotive issues.

The Education Act 1998 provides that schools should promote the social and personal development of students and provide health education for them. EU studies indicate that alcohol is the dominant drug misused in Ireland whilst the use of tobacco and other drugs is above the EU average.

Monitoring and Review Procedures

A record will be kept in school of all substance use incidents as per the school Code of Behaviour. A copy of this policy will be issued to all staff members and a copy placed on the teachers folder on the school network. A copy will also be placed on the school website for the wider school community.

This policy will be reviewed by the school community on a three year rotational basis.

Policy Content

Education

- The primary source for pupils will be the SPHE programme, as reflected in the North Western Health Board resources, which contain, at each class level from third to sixth, a module on the dangers of substance use ie alcohol, tobacco, drugs and solvents. This programme is outlined in appendix 1.
- The specific issue of substance abuse prevention is addressed each year in 6th class as part of the Confirmation programme in compliance with the specific content objectives of the SPHE core curriculum statement of the D.E.S.
- School Assembly – School assembly each Friday is an opportunity for the Principal and members of staff to highlight the dangers of substance use with the student population. Substance Use will be included on the agenda of topics for discussion at senior assembly (third to sixth class) on an annual basis.

Management of Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug and Solvent Related Incidents

Young people are most at risk in relation to substance use in Lusk National School in recreational areas, on the way to and from school and at out of school related activities supervised by staff members.

Incidents relating to alcohol, tobacco and drug use are addressed in the school's Code of Behaviour and the Enrolment Policy. The school's response to all incidents is primarily pastoral, ie to ensure that all pupils are safe, secure and supported to contribute positively to school life. However in instances of gross misbehaviour as defined by the school's 'Code of Behaviour' pupils may be suspended or expelled if involved in any drug related incident.

The school's shared understanding of a 'drug related incident' is:

- Any unusual or unbecoming behaviour resulting from intake or use of alcohol, tobacco, toxic substances or illegal drugs
- The sale or passing on of any illegal substance,
- The possession of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs on school grounds or at school related activities
- Disposal of drugs or related items (e.g. syringes) found on school property.

The reporting procedure for such incidents is:

- Step 1:** Witness to drug related incident informs teacher/staff member/Principal
- Step 2:** Principal inform parents/guardians
- Step 3:** Principal informs Chairperson of Board of Management
- Step 4:** Gardai informed depending on seriousness of incident
- Step 5:** Area Health Board informed for disposal of items

Parents will be involved by accepting the school's Code of Behaviour and Enrolment Policies. They will be informed of an incident involving their own child and will be asked to co-operate with the school authorities as per the Code of Behaviour and with the Gardai if necessary.

Parents will be involved in incidents involving another child only if deemed necessary by the school authorities; if parents are aware that another child is involved in drug-related incidents under the scope of this policy they should inform the teacher, Principal or a Board member. Parents and staff are also expected to refrain from smoking on school grounds as our school is a smoke free zone.

The role of the Board of Management is to:

- Ratify this policy
- Implement this policy
- Monitor and evaluate it
- To sponsor/provide training for staff members
- Ensure that all toxic substances are stored in a locked cupboard as per the school 'Health and Safety' Policy.
- Make decisions involving critical incidents
- To deal with the media in the event of a critical incident. (CF Critical Incidents Policy)

This policy puts the following procedures in place to deal with an incident requiring medical intervention:

- 'Universal Precautions' will be applied; e.g. wearing of proper protective gloves etc., washing and making safe an area after an incident;
- Copies of all relevant phone numbers are appended (see Appendix 2)
- A local doctor from a local practice will be contacted to respond to a medical emergency in the school

The school has established an excellent rapport with the local Garda station and will invite representatives from the local Garda station to speak with senior pupils.

At local level the following support agencies are available to which students involved in substance misuse might be referred:

- TUSLA Social Work Team, Swords
- Child Care & Family Support Services, Balbriggan
- Community Garda, Lusk/ Balbriggan Garda Station
- TUSLA Helpline
- Juvenile Liaison Office

1850 241 850

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 persons under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. The term "in the workplace", in the preceding sentence includes all school related activities taking place under the supervision of a teacher, with the Board's approval, and both within and away from the school premises.

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, in the interests of the safety, health and welfare of the employee and others. In the case of employees who are at work under the influence of an intoxicant, disciplinary procedures may be implemented.

Should the Principal and/or Deputy Principal have reasonable grounds to believe that an employee of any contractor is unfit for work, due to being under the influence of an intoxicant, the Principal and/or Deputy Principal shall ask the contractor to remove his/her employee from the workplace.

If a member of staff has reasonable grounds to believe any person, other than a staff member or employee of a contractor, is unfit to be on the premises, due to being under the

influence of an intoxicant, the staff member shall report his/her belief promptly to the Principal and/or Deputy Principal, who shall ask that person to remove him/herself from the workplace.

If a member of staff has reasonable grounds to believe that a parent or adult 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.

The Board of Management acknowledges its responsibility in promoting the welfare at work of teachers. An Employee Assistance Service (telephone: 1800 411 057 or e-mail: eas@vhics.ie) is available to teaching staff. In the event that substance abuse appears to be adversely affecting the performance and/or attendance pattern of any member of the teaching staff, the Board of Management may request such staff member to contact the Employee Assistance Service.

The Board of Management also acknowledges its responsibility in promoting the welfare at work of all other staff members. In the event that substance abuse appears to be adversely affecting the performance and/or attendance pattern of any member of the non teaching staff, the Board of Management may request such staff member to seek counseling 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.

The Board of Management shall consider all such reports and decide on the appropriate action to be taken in the circumstances of each particular case.

This policy will be reviewed in the school year 2020/2021.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Lorcan O'Toole, Chairperson of Board of Management.

Appendix 1

Substance Use Education in SPHE

3RD/4TH Class

SPHE Strand – Myself

Strand Units –

- Taking Care of My Body
Health and Well-Being – Content Objectives 4,5,6

- Safety and Protection
Safety Issues – Content Objective 4

Resources

Walk Tall – 3rd Class – P.101-118
Walk Tall – 4th Class – P.87 – 107
N.W. Health Ed. Programme (Out and About) P.61 – 87
Bi Follain – P. 143 – 152

5th/6th Class

SPHE Strand – Myself

Strand Units –

- Taking Care of My Body
Health and Well-Being – Content Objectives 3,4,5,

- Safety and Protection
Safety Issues – Content Objective 5,6

Resources

Walk Tall – 5th Class – P.110 - 126
Walk Tall – 6th Class – P.91 - 140
N.W. Health Ed. Programme (Look After Yourself) P.63 – 88
Bi Follain – P. 109 - 122

Appendix 2

Important Contact Numbers

HSE Social Work Dept, Airside, Swords	01 8708000
Drugs Advisory and Treatment Centre	01 677 1122
Trinity Court, 30/31 Pearse Street, Dublin 2	01 648 8638
	01 677 1122

Drugs/AIDS Services:

Northern Area Health Board, Phibsboro Tower, Dublin 7	01 882 0300
--	-------------

HSE Health Centre Cromcastle Rd., Coolock, Dublin 5.	01 848 7665
---	-------------

Alcohol Services

Coolock/Northside Civic Centre Bunratty Rd., Coolcock, Dublin 17.	01 8164200
Stanhope St., Dublin 7	01 6779447