

## **SUBSTANCE USE POLICY FOR ST. BRIGID'S GIRLS' NATIONAL SCHOOL.**

**Name :** St. Brigid's Girls National School  
**Address :** The Park, Cabinteely, Dublin 18  
**Phone No:** 01 – 284 74 22

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**Title of Policy :**  
**Substance Use Policy**

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**Scope :**

**This policy applies to students, teachers, parents and users of the school building. It applies during school time (including break times) and to all school related activities.**

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### **Introductory Statement & Rationale**

Following in-service in SPHE in 2002 and in-service in developing a Substance Use Policy it was decided to draw up this Substance Use Policy

This policy was developed in consultation with four teachers representatives, two representatives of the Board of Management and two parents representatives. This policy is being formulated to support the need for a policy in relation to substance use, in line with the overall ethos of the school.

**This policy should be read with the Code of Behaviour / Discipline policy of the school.**

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### **School Vision**

The school sees itself as having a role in the promotion of the well-being of its students. This is done by :

1. Providing a safe and healthy environment
  2. Promoting positive health behaviours
  3. Increasing knowledge about health
  4. Promoting the self-esteem and self-awareness of students
  5. Working in partnership with the parents and pupils.
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### **Definition of a Drug**

A drug can be defined as a chemical, which causes changes in the way the human body functions, mentally, physically or emotionally. For the purpose of this policy we are concerned with drugs which have the power to change a previous mood and the way a person thinks about things and drugs or which the taker may become physically or more often psychologically dependent.

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### **Current Provision**

Provision is currently made in the school for alcohol, tobacco and drug education through S.P.H.E.  
Specific Programmes include Walk Tall, Alive-O, Stay Safe.  
A drugs awareness programme is also used in Senior Classes

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### **Aims**

The child should be enabled to

- a) be self-confident and have a positive sense of self-esteem
  - b) develop a sense of personal responsibility
  - c) develop an understanding of healthy living, an ability to implement healthy behaviour and a willingness to participate in activities that promote and sustain health.
  - d) Develop sense of safety and an ability to protect himself/herself from danger and abuse
  - e) make decisions, solve problems and take appropriate actions in various personal, social and health contexts
  - f) become aware of, and discerning about the various influences or choices and decisions
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### **Implementation and Content of the Policy**

The policy will be available from the principal to the Board of Management, Teachers and other staff members.

Parents and guardians will be given a copy of the policy on enrolment of their child in the school. Enrolment will be on acceptance of this and other school policy documents by them.

*The school wishes to make clear that the primary role of substance misuse prevention rests with the parents.*

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### **Content of the Policy :**

#### **Education concerning substance use Prevention**

#### **Education :**

It is accepted amongst educationalists that education about alcohol, tobacco and drugs is best carried out by teachers through the inclusion of SPHE in the curriculum. This SPHE Programme would also draw on the expertise available from the community i.e. parents, Gardaí and Health Board.

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### **Management of alcohol, tobacco and drug-related incidents**

#### **Smoking**

##### **School Policy**

- The school including all its grounds is a “no smoking area”
- Students are not permitted to smoke or possess cigarettes on the school premises or in any other place.
- Visitors will comply with the no smoking policy
- Pupils found smoking on school premises will be reported to the Principal and parents will be informed.

#### **Alcohol**

##### **School Policy**

- 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 s/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, it's use must be approved by the Board of Management.

#### **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 Gardaí 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 s/he 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 student involved will be informed. The advice and assistance of the Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer will be sought.
- The school Board of Management will expect parents to inform the Principal or teacher if they suspect their child of drug taking.

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**Administration of Medicines**

**School Policy**

1. Parents put in writing to Principal request to administer medicine.  
*This application should include **Child's name, medication, exact dosage, and time, Parent's / guardians signature.***
2. Parents are responsible for provision and availability of such medication.
3. Medication should be kept in a safe place (Principal's office / Teacher's press)
4. Changes in dosage or time to be notified in writing by Parents to Principal
5. Parents should renew request at start of each year.
6. The Principal will keep record of administration in office.

**Provision Training and Staff Development**

In-service on SPHE

First Aid Training

Drug awareness training and skills development e.g. Substance Misuse Prevention Programme : Health Promotion Unit

Explore attitudes to drugs and how these may effect responses to incidents – Walk Tall Teacher Training Courses

Parent Education – Health Promotion Unit

Pro-active Involvement of outside agencies e.g. Gardaí

Awareness of Laws relating to schools and drugs.

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**Roles and Responsibilities :**

The policy has been developed in consultation with representatives of the Board of Management, teaching staff and parents. It will also be implemented and evaluated by these parties.

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**Review :**

The policy will be regularly evaluated and updated where necessary,

**Ratification and Communication**

This policy was reviewed by Board of Management on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

**ACCEPTANCE FORM FOR THE SUBSTANCE USE POLICY  
FOR ST. BRIGID'S GIRLS' NATIONAL SCHOOL.**

----- to be completed and returned with Application Form -----

I / We have read the Substance Use Policy of St. Brigid's Girls' National School. I / We accept this policy and will endeavour to ensure that my / our daughter complies with this Policy.

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_  
Dated : \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dated : \_\_\_\_\_

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