

*St Joseph's NS  
Hacketstown,  
Co. Carlow  
059 – 6471199  
Roll No: 17127S  
htownns@gmail.com*



## **School Substance Use Policy**

### Introduction

A drug can be defined as a chemical, which causes changes in a 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.

The school sees itself as having a role in the process of enabling students to increase control over and improve their health. We endeavour to promote the well-being of students 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.

To this end, in response to the encroaching drug culture in our society we feel it's important to implement a comprehensive policy to address the problem of substance misuse.

The Policy will focus on:-

1. Strategies for prevention of substance misuse problems  
i.e. S.P.H.E. programmes such as RSE AND Stay Safe.
2. Procedures for dealing with drug incidences in the school.
3. Guidelines and information for teachers to improve their response to the problem of substance misuse.

The policy will be regularly evaluated and updated where necessary.

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

### *Prevention*

#### *Education:*

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

#### Smoking

1. The school is a No-Smoking area.
2. Students are not permitted to smoke or possess cigarettes on the school premises or in any other place.
3. Visitors will comply with the No-Smoking Policy.
4. Tobacco will not be permitted as a prize for school raffles.

#### Alcohol

1. The school is an alcohol free area.
2. Pupils will not be allowed to bring alcohol into the school or consume alcohol in school or during any school activities.
3. If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of alcohol, he/she will immediately inform the Principal and consult on what action should be taken.
4. Where a student comes to school under the influence of alcohol, their parents will be called in to take them home.
5. Students breaking the rules will be dealt with according to the school's disciplinary procedure.

## Illicit Drugs and Solvents

1. Students are forbidden from being in possession of or using illicit drugs or solvents in the school premises.
2. Illicit drugs found on school premises should be locked away and the Gardai contacted to dispose of them.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The school B.O.M. will expect parents to inform the Principal or Teacher if they suspect their child of drug taking.

Review/Ratification/ Communication :

This policy was ratified and communicated on May 14<sup>th</sup> 2020.

It will be reviewed at the end of the 2021 school year and amended if necessary.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Edward Forde (Chairperson Board of Management)