

# Lecanvey National School

## Substance Misuse Policy

### Introductory Statement

The world in which we live presents young people with many challenges which affect their health and well-being. Exposure to alcohol, tobacco and drugs is part of this reality. This policy statement aims to create awareness and provide pupils, staff and parents with appropriate knowledge in relation to alcohol, tobacco and drugs. . This will create a healthy school environment that will have both a positive and long-term effect for all concerned.

### Rationale

As part of the SPHE curriculum and Action 43 of The National Drugs Strategy- "Building on Experience" a substance use policy must be established within the school. This policy reflects the ethos of Lecanvey NS in that we are dedicated to the care of the whole school community and aim to provide a safe and healthy environment whilst working in partnership with parents and pupils.

### Aims

This policy aims to outline:

1. Educational Strategies for prevention of substance misuse i.e. Walk Tall, Grow in Love, S.P.H.E.
2. Management of substances in the school
3. Guidelines and information for teachers on how to respond to the problem of substance misuse

### Scope

The substance Use Policy applies to:

- All pupils
- All members of staff
- Parents/Guardians
- Visitors and all users of the school facilities

### Where

- Within the school building and the school grounds
- Anywhere the children are taken under the care of the school

### School Definition of a Drug

A drug can be defined as a chemical which alters how the body works or how the person behaves or feels.

### 1.Prevention of Substance Misuse

Education about Substance Misuse will be taught through the SPHE curriculum. The main programme used in the teaching of this is the Walk Tall programme. It is supported by the Alive-O programme at all class levels. The content objectives which relate directly to substances will be taught by the class teacher during discrete SPHE time. From time to time we will also draw on the expertise of other community agencies- Gardaí, Health Board.

### 2. Management of Substances in School

#### Smoking

- In accordance with The Tobacco Act, 2002, smoking is not permitted anywhere within the school building or grounds of Lecanvey NS.

- Pupils are not permitted to smoke or possess cigarettes on the school premises. Pupils found smoking on school premises will be reported to the Principal and parents will be informed.
- Staff may only smoke outside of school grounds.
- Visitors must comply with the no smoking policy.

## Alcohol

- The consumption and possession of alcohol is not allowed at any time on the school premises. *(If alcohol is required for an adult only school function, permission must be sought and granted by the B.O.M.)*
- If a teacher is of the opinion that a pupil is under the influence of alcohol, he/she 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 procedures.

## Solvents

- The use of aerosols is generally not permitted by pupils in the school. If children need to bring deodorant to school a roll-on variety should be used. However, aerosol sprays will on occasion be used for arts and crafts. An adult must supervise such activities.
- Cleaning solvents held in the school should be stored out of the reach of pupils at all times.

## Legal Drugs

See Policy on Administration of Medication

## Illegal Drugs

- Illegal drugs or solvents as itemised under current legislation are not permitted on 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, he/she will immediately inform the Principal and consult on what action should be taken.

## Substance Misuse by an Adult

Reports of Substance Misuse by adults will be reported to the BOM.

### **3.Guidelines for Managing Substance Misuse Incidents in School**

The school will take a pastoral and supportive approach to the management of all substance misuse incidents in the school.

In the case of an **emergency**:

- The teacher will stay calm and will remain with the child
- Inform the principal
- If necessary an ambulance will be called
- A parent/guardian will be contacted as soon as possible
- A teacher will accompany the child to the hospital until a parent arrives

In the case of an **incident**:

- Any person who sees or suspects the misuse of a substance by a child or any member of the school community, including teachers, parents/ guardians, should report this to the principal.
- The person should stay calm at all times.
- The principal will then deal with the incident.
- The incident will be recorded and reported to the BOM.
- An agreed course of action and disciplinary sanctions will be agreed upon where needed
- Parents will be referred to appropriate services where necessary.
- In the case of an illegal substance, the Gardaí will be contacted.
- In cases where children/parents/staff fail to comply with school policy, the BOM will be informed
- Further action will be taken at the discretion of the BOM.
- The BOM will at all times comply to the Children First guidelines.

**Confidentiality**

All matters discussed or recorded will be confidential in accordance with the Children First guidelines and BOM Procedures.

**Disclosure:**

If a disclosure is made, it should be reported to the designated liaison person (Principal) in the school in accordance with the Children First guidelines.

**Media Queries:**

All media queries will be directed towards the principal and or the chairperson of the BOM. No teacher, parents or pupils will answer media questions in relation to school matters.

**Provision for Support and Development**

The BOM will endeavour to support school staff in relation to Substance Misuse. All staff members will be informed of the legal issues involved within this policy. They are also responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented. The school will liaise with relevant agencies on an ongoing basis with regard to Substance Misuse.

**Review and Monitoring**

The policy was reviewed and updated, in Sept 2018. It will be read through at the beginning of each school year. This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or more often if legislation requires it.

This policy is readily available to all parents/guardians on request. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the patron, if requested.

This policy adopted by Board of Management on 01/10/18 and reviewed on 11/10/22

Signed: [Signature]  
(Chairperson of B.O.M)

Signed: [Signature]  
(Principal)

Date of next Review: 11/10/2024