

SUNCROFT NATIONAL SCHOOL

Policy Number: 6 - SCHOOL SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY REV:2

Introduction:

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 re concerned with drugs which have the power to change a previous mood and the way a person thinks about things and drugs on which the taker may become physically or more often psychologically dependent.

SCHOOL DRUG POLICY

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 pupils 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 the need to implement a comprehensive policy to address the problem of substance abuse.

The Policy will focus on:

6. Strategies for the prevention of substance misuse i.e. Walk Tall, Alive-O, S.P.H.E.
7. Procedures for dealing with drug incidents in the school - "No Smoking" signs etc.
8. Guidelines and information for teachers to improve their response to the problem of substance misuse.

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

Implementation of the Policy

The policy will be available for the Principal to the B.O.M., teachers and other staff members.

The policy will be available in the office and on the school web-site.

The policy will be regularly evaluated and updated where necessary.

The school wishes to make clear that the primary role of the 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 for the community i.e. Parents, Garda and the Health Board.

SMOKING

School Policy

- The school is a no-smoking area.
- Students are not permitted to smoke or possess cigarettes on the school premises.
- Staff may not smoke in the school.
- Pupils found smoking on the school premises will be reported to the Principal and parents will be informed.

ALCOHOL

School Policy

- The school is an alcohol free area.
- 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 pupil is under the influence of alcohol, he/she will immediately inform the Principal and consult on what action should be taken.
- Where a pupil comes to school under the influence of alcohol, their parents will be called in to take them home.
- Pupils breaking these rules will be dealt with according to the school's disciplinary procedures.

ILLCIT DRUGS AND SOLVENTS

School Policy

- Pupils are forbidden from being in possession of or using illicit drugs or solvents in the school premises.
- Illicit drugs found on school premises will be locked away and the Garda 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 pupil is under the influence of illicit drugs or solvents, he/she will immediately inform the Principal and consult on what actions should be taken.
- Where the school suspects trafficking of illicit drugs, an investigation will be carried out. Parents of any pupils involved will be informed. The advice and assistance of the Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer will be sought.
- The school's B.O.M. will expect parents to inform the Principal or class teacher if they suspect their child of taking drugs.

SOURCES AND RESOURCES

1. Alive-O
2. Walk tall.
3. S.P.H.E.
4. “Meas”- Alcohol - Guide for Parents
5. Drug Use Prevention - N.A.C.D.
6. National Drug Strategy Overview
7. National Drug Strategy 2001-2008 Building on Experience - D.E.S.
8. “Guidelines for developing a school substance use policy” - Health Promotion Unit, Regional Health Board and D.E.S.
9. Drugs awareness Journal
10. The Step-by Step approach to developing a drug policy - Srs. Of Mercy
11. “Solvent Abuse” - A guide for Professional and Parents - Dept of Health
12. “Drugs - There are answers” - Health Promotion Unit
13. “The impact of Alcohol Advertising of teenagers I Ireland” - Health Promotion Unit.

REVISED AND UP-DATED: 16TH February 2011