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Education & Training
Boards Ireland
*Bord Oideachais &
Oiliúna Éireann*

Broadmeadow Community

National School,

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Roll Number:

SUBSTANCE USE POLICY

BROADMEADOW COMMUNITY

NATIONAL SCHOOL



2024/2025

Principal: Miss J. Robinson

The Principal of Miss Jennifer Robinson is responsible for the implementation of this Substance Use Policy.

Introduction

This policy applies to pupils, teachers, SNAs, ancillary staff members, users of the school premises, visitors, i.e. every person who enters the building. It is applicable during school time – including breaks and to ALL school related activities. It applies to the school building and grounds and to any area where a school related activity takes place, e.g. School Tour.

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. 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. Children are being presented with temptation and peer pressure at a much younger age and therefore a development of awareness and support needs to be created early on.

Policy Aim

The aim of the substance use policy of Broadmeadow CNS is primary prevention. We aim to protect our pupils and all who enter our school from the harmful effects of substance misuse and try to prevent them from using tobacco, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs. 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 through a range of media channels.

Relationship to the school Ethos and Mission

At Broadmeadow CNS the characteristic spirit of the school has been developed and agreed with our partners in education. This substance use policy reflects the school policy by:

- Drawing together all those involved such as parents, teachers, SNA's and BOM/ETB.
- Including reference to substance use in the enrolment policy.
- Including reference to substance use in our Code of Behaviour and Health and Safety Policy.

Rationale

The Education Act 1998 provides that schools should promote the social and personal development of students and provide health education for them. The National Drugs Strategy 'Building on Experience' is now government policy and it requires schools to have a substance use policy in place. The recent report from the National Advisory Committee on Drugs entitled 'Drug Use Prevention' (November 2001) underlines the importance of schools developing substance use policies.

The 1999 European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs (ESPAD) Report highlighted the seriousness of the problem among sixteen year olds in Ireland, as compared to the other 29 ESPAD countries surveyed. Alcohol was identified as being the dominant drug misused in Ireland whilst the use of tobacco and other drugs was above the ESPAD average. For the population as a whole, alcohol consumption per capita in Ireland has increased by 41% in the period 1989 to 1999, while the other EU Member States showed either a decrease or a modest increase. Ireland now has the second highest per capita consumption of alcohol in the EU. Therefore, Broadmeadow CNS has a moral and legal obligation to ensure compliance with the criminal law.

Policy Implementation and Monitoring Process

- This policy will be shared with all staff, BOM/ETB, parents and children, together with any volunteers or students.
- The policy can be shared with outside agencies and other members of the community upon request.
- The policy will be adhered to by all upon agreement of admissions.
- The policy will be kept up to date and all involved will be informed of any possible changes.
- The policy will be formed in line with relevant and up to date legislation.
- A record will be kept in school of all substance use incidents.
- There will be an annual meeting of this Drugs' Formation Policy Committee to monitor and review procedures to be held each year.
- A copy of this policy will be issued to all staff members and a reminder of its contents will be given at the first staff meeting of each year.
- A Board of Management member will take responsibility to monitor procedures annually and ensure they are being adhered to.

Policy Content

Management of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Related Incidents

The policy committee members believe that young people are most at risk in relation to substance use in Broadmeadow CNS in recreational areas, on the way to and from school and at out of school related activities supervised by staff members of Broadmeadow CNS. The children are exposed to more substance awareness and use through the use of online and social media channels.

Incidents relating to alcohol, tobacco and drug use are addressed in the school's Code of Behaviour and the Admissions Policy and pupils may be suspended or expelled if involved in any drug related incident.

At Broadmeadow CNS our shared understanding of a 'drug related incident' is:

- Any unusual or unbecoming behaviour resulting from intake or use of alcohol, tobacco 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 as follows:

Step 1: Witness to drug related incident informs teacher/staff member/Principal. Completion of witness report documentation for record keeping.

Step 2: Principal inform parents/guardians. (child can be present)

Step 3: Principal informs ETB/BOM as directed.

Step 4: Gardai informed depending on seriousness of incident.

Step 5: Area Health Board informed for disposal of items.

Parental Involvement:

- Parents will be involved by accepting the school's Code of Behaviour and Admissions Policies. They will be informed of an incident involving their own child and will be asked to accept responsibility, co-operate with the school authorities 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.

The role of the Board of Management is to:

- Ratify the Substance Use Policy.
- Implement, monitor and evaluate the policy.
- To sponsor/provide training for staff members.
- Make decisions involving critical incidents and to deal with the media in the event of a critical incident.
- Make decisions involving possible suspension and expulsion of pupils.

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; provision of a yellow bin to dispose of needles or other unsuitable appliances.

- First Aid training will be given to a staff member who is now qualified and certified to assist with medical emergencies.
- Copies of all relevant phone numbers are kept on file.
- Emergency services will be called if a staff member/first aider feels the need for such action in the safety of the person involved.

The school will create a rapport with the local Garda station and will invite representatives from the local Garda station to speak with senior pupils and also 'People Who Help Us' talks in junior classes. Whether or not to inform the Gardai of minor incidents will be at the discretion of the Principal and the Chairperson of the Board of Management, but they will be involved in any serious substance abuse incidents.

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

- N.A. (Narcotics Anonymous)
- Child Care & Family Support Services
- Drug Education Officer
- Drug Helpline 1800 341 900
- Juvenile Liaison Officer
- Community Garda
- Drugs Advisory and Treatment Centre - 01 677 1122

In the event of media interest in relation to a 'drug related incident', the matter will be referred to the Board of Management and the Chairperson will issue a prepared statement to the media.

Management of Persons in the Workplace- Under The Influence of Drugs and/or Alcohol

The Board of Management at Broadmeadow CNS 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/single manager acknowledges its responsibility in promoting the welfare at work of teachers.

An Employee Assistance Service/ Inspire Workplace (telephone: 1800 411 057) 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/single manager 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 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/ single manager shall consider all such reports and decide on the appropriate action to be taken in the circumstances of each particular case.

Additional Contact Details

- N.A. (Narcotics Anonymous)
- Child Care & Family Support Services
- Drug Education Officer
- Drug Helpline 1800 341 900
- Juvenile Liaison Officer
- Community Garda
- Drugs Advisory and Treatment Centre - 01 677 1122
- HSE Drugs and Alcohol Help Line 1800459 459
- Dublin North Addiction Services 185024 1850
- North Dublin Community Care Service – 01 813 1786

This policy was ratified by;

Chairperson: Brigid Manton

Date: 15/10/24

Principal: Jennifer Robinson

Date: 15/10/24