

Holy Angels National School

Clogher,
Claremorris,
Co. Mayo.
F12RC95



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Web: www.holyangelsns.ie
Roll: 17482P

Substance Use Policy

SCOPE: Policy applies to all users of the school building. It is applicable to all school related activities.

We define a 'drug' as being 'any chemical which alters how the body works or how the person behaves or feels'.

RELATIONSHIP TO SCHOOL'S MISSION:

This policy is in keeping with our school mission statement, which is concerned with the care and welfare of the children attending our school.

RATIONALE:

- 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.
- 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' underlines the importance of schools developing substance use policies.

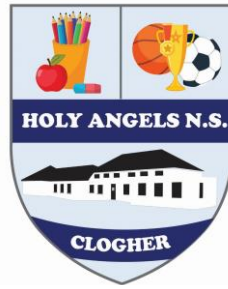
GOALS/OBJECTIVES

The Goals and Objectives of this policy are aligned with the Goals and Objectives of our SPHE curriculum.

The goal of our school is to have clear procedures to be followed if there are drug/alcohol related incidences in the school.

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POLICY CONTENT

- A. Education concerning substance use.
- B. Management of alcohol, tobacco and drug related incidents.
- C. Provision for training and staff development.

A. Substance use will be taught as part of SPHE Programme. This is a two year programme, part in year one and remainder in year two. SPHE is taught through active learning – talk, discussion, drama etc. From time to time outside people may be brought in to talk to students e.g. guard, health nurse etc.

These talks will be aimed at children's own level and will be in keeping with the content of the New Curriculum. The teacher will be present during visit of guest speaker.

B. *Alcohol.*

The school is an alcohol free zone. Pupils are not allowed to bring alcohol into school, consume it in school or bring it on any school related activity.

If staff thinks a child is under the influence, the following procedures will be followed:

- i. Consult principal.
- ii. Decide on action.
- iii. Inform parents immediately.
- iv. Parents bring child home.
- v. Make written note of when, how and where they got the alcohol.
- vi. If taken from home, guards will not be involved.
- vii. If the alcohol has been sold to the child, the guards must be informed, and parents will be advised to report it
- viii. If a child continues to take alcohol from home, teachers will follow the Child Protection Guidelines, and report to Duty Social Worker in Health Board.

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Any members of staff, including secretary, caretaker etc., who present themselves for work under the influence of alcohol, will be excused from work by *Chairperson of BOM*.

If it becomes clear to the school that a parent/guardian who intends to drive a child home, is under the influence, the teacher/principal will advise that she will seek another person on child's enrolment form to drive the child home.

Tobacco

Students are not allowed to smoke on school grounds or during school activities.

Staff may smoke off school grounds and not in view of children.

All school visitors are expected to comply.

If pupils are found smoking in school or during a school related activity, the following procedures will be followed:

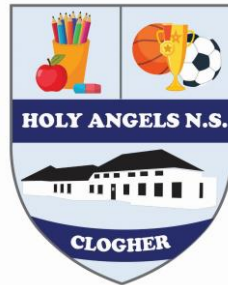
- i. Child is asked to hand up the cigarettes, matches/lighter etc.**
- ii. Parents are informed and given the confiscated items.**
- iii. If the child was sold the cigarettes, the guards will be informed.**

Illegal Drugs, Solvents, Food and Beverages

- a) The school is an area where illegal drugs, non water-based solvents and certain food and beverages, which affect the behaviour of the children, will not be allowed.**
- b) Certain children display changes in behaviour after consuming certain drinks and possibly, chocolate. School will advise parents not to include fizzy drinks in their children's lunch boxes.**
- c) Any illegal drug, or device for administering an illegal drug found on school premises will result in the following procedure being followed:**
 - i. Teacher will clear the room.**

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- ii. Illegal substance is left exactly where seen, unless doing so poses a risk to other pupils/staff.
- iii. Gardai will be informed immediately.
- iv. No member of staff will transport illegal substances at any time.

If a child is found to be under the influence of illegal drugs at school, the following procedure will be followed:

- i. Parents are contacted and requested to take the child home.
 - ii. Gardai will be informed, as will the Duty Social Worker if this is deemed necessary.
- d) If dealing of drugs is suspected in school, the juvenile liaison officer of the gardai must be informed.
- e) If a member of staff or parent is found to be under the influence of illegal drugs, the same procedure for that of alcohol will be followed.
- f) If parents are looking for help, they will be referred to the relevant Health Authority.
- g) The use of spray deodorants is prohibited for all school activities. They will be confiscated if found.

Prescribed Medication

- Students who must take medication during school must keep medication in a safe place.
- Under no circumstances is medication to be shared between pupils.
- If a child must take ongoing prescribed medication during school hours, his/her parents must apply to the BOM in writing to take the matter further.
- If the child cannot administer the medication himself/herself, his/her parents must make arrangements.
- The teacher is not obliged to administer medication. However, in a life or death situation and where teachers have been provided with training, it is acceptable. A member of staff may volunteer to administer a child's medication, but parents must sign off on indemnity. A substitute must also be trained and parents must make arrangements to have a stand-in on school activities.
- In the event of an emergency, where a doctor is needed immediately, the child's parents are called; if parents are not available then the doctor is called.

C. Training

- Walk Tall in-service training.

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- **Public Health Nurse – recognition of drugs and symptoms.**
- **New staff is briefed on policy on commencement of employment.**