

Polasaí ar Mhí-úsáid Sustaintí agus Oideachas Drugaí

*Policy for the Misuse of
Substances and Drugs Education*

Gaelscoil Uí Néill



‘Fonn a dhéanann foghlaim’

Misuse of Substances / Drugs Education Policy

Rationale

In today's society many young people are exposed to glamorous and unrealistic messages in relation to drugs and their effects. Combined with ineffective Government policies, this often leads to misuse and abuse by impressionable and vulnerable young people. Whilst we recognise that parents are the primary educators of their children, we realise that our school is well placed to provide strong support and care in the area of substance misuse. As such we encourage all pupils to develop personal and social skills that will enable them to make informed decisions regarding substance misuse. We recognise that an asserted approach for supporting young people in substance education is to create an ethos within the school which promotes individual empowerment, and values, such as tolerance, openness, honesty, respect and caring for ones self and others.

Aims

- To establish abstinence/prevention as the main approach to substance abuse.
- To establish an environment free from the misuse of substances.
- To provide guidance on the protocols to be used in suspected or real substance misuse.

Objectives

- To provide factual information and knowledge about drugs/substances
- To establish and develop personal, social and moral skills that will enable a young person to make positive, informed decisions.

Legal Legislation

It is the policy of Gaelscoil Uí Néill to comply with the legal requirements laid down in The Misuse of DrugS Act (1971) and other relevant legislation.

In keeping with requirements we will publish relevant sections of our Misuse of Substances/Drugs Education Policy in our school prospectus. A copy may also be obtained from the school.

Whole School Approach

It is the view of Gaelscoil Uí Néill that education surrounding drugs/substance misuse should not be taught in isolation, but rather as an integral part of our Personal Development Programme. This involves developing a set of values and skills that will aid in producing rounded 'whole' pupils-physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. The aims stated above are fulfilled through pupils' experiences in the taught curriculum and through opportunities in extra-curricular activities.

Roles and Responsibilities

A response to a substance-related issue is not just the responsibility of the teaching staff within the school. We use a multidisciplinary approach to deal with all issues relating to drugs/substance abuse. Included are :

- Board of Governors
- Designated Drugs Officer
- Person Development Curriculum Co-ordinator
- Child Protection Officer
- All Members of Staff
- External Agencies

Responding to Misuse of Substances and Related Incidents (Ref Appendix

In the unlikely event of an incident occurring we will follow the practices and procedures stated in the Misuse of Substance Flowchart (Appendix A). In addition, parents/guardians will be immediately notified as will the Board of Governors and the CSIO PSNI Officer in order that investigations into the source of, and possible trafficking in, illegal substances can be expedited.

Our policy in these matters is to proceed with the upmost discretion and sensitivity bearing in mind the need to protect the rights of the pupil concerned, their families and our school. However, it will be made clear to our pupils that no guarantee of confidentiality can be offered if he/she discloses to an employee that he/she is taking drugs. Due to the seriousness of substance misuse, any incident/knowledge must be

reported to the Designated Teacher who will ensure that proper action is taken to protect that pupil.

Procedures to be followed :

Pupil under influence – ensure immediate safety of pupil and others, and administer first aid if and when necessary. The Designated Teacher/Principal should then be informed, followed by parents. At this stage both the CSIO and the EWO should be informed.

Pupil Suspected/Known to be in Possession of a Substance – pupil will be asked to surrender the substance whereupon it will be placed under lock and key until collected by CSIO. Upon refusal to comply, the pupil will be escorted to the Designated Teacher/Principal who may make a further request. Upon refusal by the pupil to accompany a responsible adult to the Designated Teacher/Principal, the Principal will be sent for while the adult remains in close proximity to the pupil.

Pupil Dealing – Designated Teacher/Principal should be informed immediately whereupon the CSIO will be contacted.

Media

The Principal will take responsibility for liaison with the media.

Recording and Referral

Appendix D,E AND F will be used to record and refer information to both the SELB and where employing authority.

Managing External Agencies (Ref Appendix A and B)

We acknowledge the importance of ensuring that any external agencies used to support our work with young people must adhere to the values and ethos particular to our school. Schools need to be aware of the importance of a contract being agreed upon by all contributory parties.

Safety in Gaelscoil Uí Néill

Gaelscoil Uí Néill has several qualified First Aiders who are known to all staff and are easily accessible.

All substances and associated paraphernalia will be collected, stored under lock and key and delivered to the CSIO from the PSNI.

Policies and procedures are in place to communicate with parents regarding the safe storage and administration of prescribed and over the counter medication during school hours.

Staff Development

We regularly update and train our staff regarding issues surrounding drugs/substance misuse.

Related school policies

This policy is set within the broader school context of Pastoral Care and as such should be read in conjunction with the following school policies :

- Pastoral Care Policy
- Personal Development Curriculum Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Storage and Administration of Drugs Policy

Monitoring, Reviewing and Evaluating

Periodic review of our Drugs/Substance Misuse Policy will take place to reflect changing circumstances and trends. Evaluation will cover two areas :

- The effectiveness of the policy to assist pupils in resisting the lure of substance misuse.

- The effectiveness of the procedures and practices in place to deal with substance related incidents.

To this end we follow the procedures for self evaluation as outlined in the DE document 'Together Towards Improvement'.

Service Level Agreement for Use with External Agencies Working in Schools

I/We have read the school ethos and policies of Gaelscoil Uí Néill and agree to formally adhere to their ethos and policies :

- In working with young people and
 - In the delivery of the programmes outlined below :
-

I/We am/are willing to provide **full** details of material content to:

Senior Management, Teachers, Parents, Governors and other Appropriate Bodies and agree to fully implement any changes deemed necessary by the above representatives.

I accept the right of the school to withdraw the invitation issued to support the school in the education of our young people.

I/We formally accept the above terms of reference and in doing so I/We will acknowledge the agreement made.

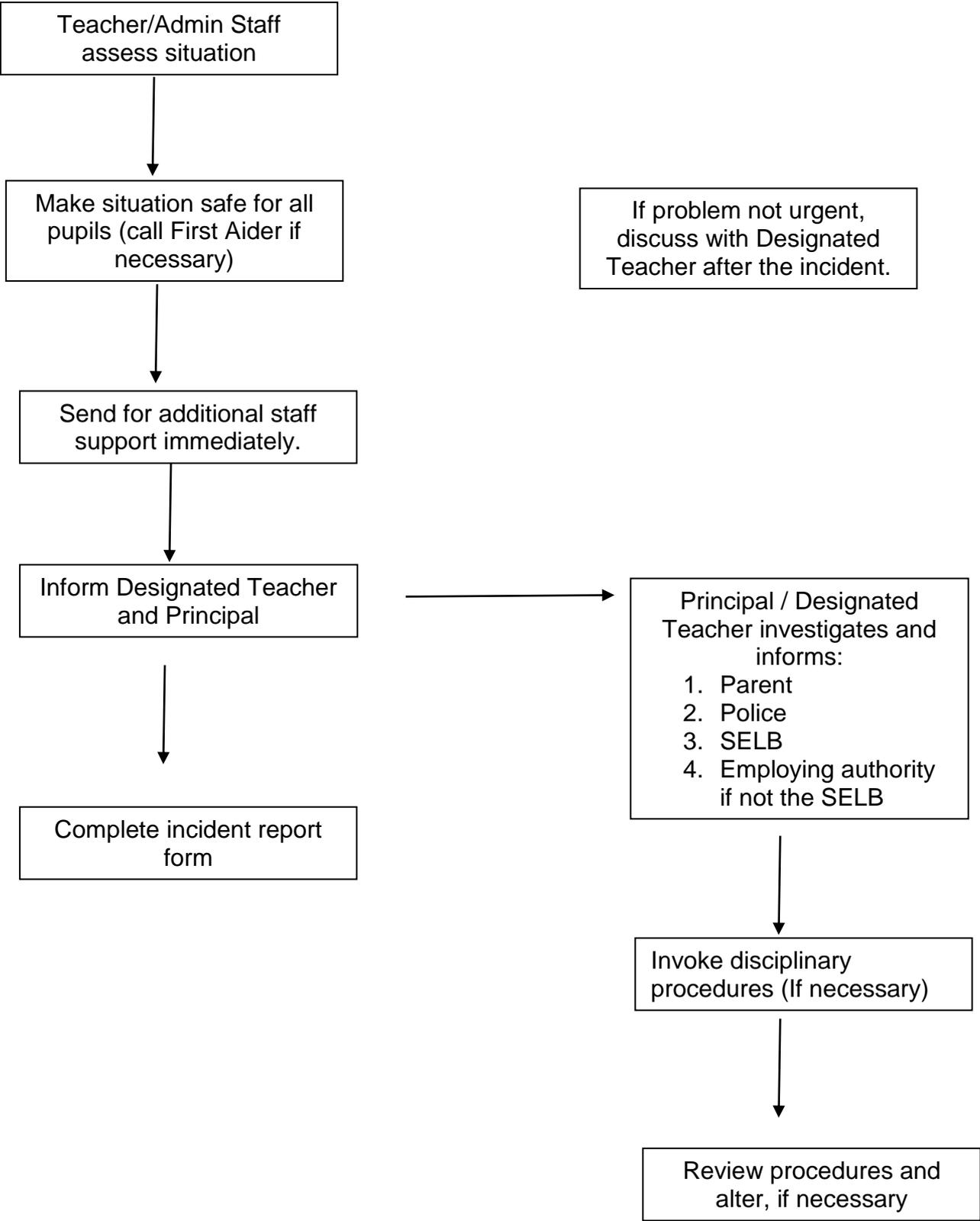
Signed _____ (External Agency)

Dated _____

Countersigned: _____ (Principal)

Dated _____

Misuse of Substance Flowchart



**Drugs and Substance Misuse Incident Report Form
(Form to be completed by Teacher involved in Incident)**

Nature of incident:

Date: _____ **Time:** _____ **Venue:** _____

Pupil(s) involved:

Teacher Response:

Substance given to Principal/Designated Teacher: Yes No

Report to Designated Teacher : Yes No

Report to Principal: Yes No

Signed : _____ **Date:** _____

School Record and Checklist

(To be completed and held as record by Principal / Designated Teacher)

Date: _____

Nature of incident:

Substance in secure storage : _____ **(please tick)**

Staff involved:

Report from staff attached: _____ **(please tick)**

Name of pupil(s) involved

Rang

_____	_____
_____	_____

Informed (circle as appropriate):