

*Ballyfin National School
Substance Use Policy*

Ballyfin N.S.

Substance Use Policy

The aim of this policy is the welfare/care and protection of all our pupils in line with the Education Act 1998.

- (a) Is this policy just for pupils?**
- (b) What education does the school provide on substances?**
- (c) How does the school manage drug related incidents?**

What is a Drug:

“A drug is any substance which changes how human body functions mentally, physically or emotionally”

Sometimes when we think of drugs we are inclined only to think of illegal drugs.

Alcohol and tobacco are drugs.

Ordinary over the counter medicines are drugs too.

What about aerosols, ? Tipex ? etc.

Is this policy just for pupils? No

This policy applies to the whole school community.

- The pupils, staff, parents and guardians .
- The Board of Management.
- All visitors to the school and it's grounds.

Does this policy cover school times only? No

This policy applies at all times -24 hours a day.

- To the school building and grounds.
- To all school related activities supervised by school staff.

Types of Substances

1. Smoking and Tobacco

- The school, the yard and the grounds are non-smoking areas for all adults and children.
- Students are not allowed to smoke or carry cigarettes in school, on school trips or at school related activities.
- Adults who want to smoke must leave the school grounds to do so.
- Pupils found smoking or carrying cigarettes, lighters matches or other materials for smoking will be asked to hand all the items over.
- Parents will then be contacted.
- Discipline will be in line with the code of behaviour

2. Alcohol

- The school, yard and the grounds are alcohol free areas for all adults and children.
- Students and the adults who are taking care of them are not permitted to consume alcohol at school, on school trips or at school activities.
- Pupils found sampling alcohol or carrying alcohol will be asked to hand over the alcohol.
- Parents will be contacted.
- Discipline will be in line with the code of behaviour.

Drugs

- If your child has to take an inhaler or any other prescribed medication during school hours you need to make an appointment to see the Principal to discuss a safe way of meeting your child's needs.
- Children should not have any medicines or tablets with them in school
eg. Disprin, Anadin, Panadol etc.
What if another child took it?
What if a smaller child found it and took it?.
- Pupils are not to bring aerosol sprays with them to school or on school trips or on school related activities.
Eg. deodorants, body sprays, paints etc.
- All chemicals on school premises are locked away and can only be used by students under supervision.
- Selling, supplying, using or possessing illegal drugs on the school premises or on school trips and activities is prohibited for everyone-pupils, parents, staff and all visitors to the school.
- T- shirts, clothing, pencil cases and other items that have an open or underlying message which encourages drug use are not allowed.

If a substance misuse incident occurs then:

- The Principal & Deputy principal will be informed immediately.
- In any situation the health safety and welfare of the child will be given first priority.
- The situation will be assessed by the principal/deputy principal to determine if medical and Garda intervention are necessary.
- The relevant emergency services will be contacted at 999 & 112.
- If the incident involves pupils, parents may be contacted and required to come to the school immediately.
- If the incident involves substances being found in the school then the Junior Liaison Garda or Gardai will be contacted to remove the substance.
- The Principal will keep factual written account of the incident.

Local Services

M H B Community Alcohol & Drug Services	78282
Substance Misuse Education Officer	64564
Regional Drugs Task Force	64566
Juvenile Liaison Service	21105
Laois Youth Services	65010
National Drugs Unit	01- 4755111
Confidential Garda Line	1800 666111
Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Service	78114
Alcohol and Drugs Counselling Service	78282
Midland Regional Hospital	21364

Concluding Comment

This policy statement has been prepared based on conditions existing in the school at the time of writing. It may be altered, revised or updated at a future date so as to comply with any changes in conditions.

All amendments and updates will be recorded in the -

Substance Use Policy.

Signed : Patrick B. Hennessy.

Date: 17/05/2006

Chairperson B.O.M.
Ballyfin N.S