

**Substance Misuse Policy of SN Baile Cuisin / Cushinstown National School**

**School Address: Cushinstown, Foulksmills, Co. Wexford, Y35FF98**

**Roll Number: 16673R**

# Introduction

This policy reflects our school ethos and seeks to promote self-reliance, knowledge and skills to enable individuals within our school community to make healthy and safe choices. The school will endeavour to work closely with parents/guardians in the implementation of this policy to ensure the health and safety of each child.

SN Baile Cuisin recognises the serious danger that drug misuse can have on the individual and on the school community. The main objectives of this policy are to inform the school community on substance misuse and the strategies in place to empower the staff, parents and children.

This policy was developed in consultation with the staff, Board of Management (BOM) and Parents Association of SN Baile Cuisin in accordance with recommendations by the Department of Education and the Health Service Executive. It should be read in conjunction with the school Code of Behaviour and Administration of Medication Policy. This policy is applicable to all students, staff, parents and users of the school building during school time and during all school related activities. (ie, Field Trips, Extra-curricular sporting outings)

# Aims of this policy

The aim of the substance use policy of Cushinstown NS is primary prevention. We aim to protect our pupils from the harmful effects of substance misuse and try to prevent them from using tobacco, alcohol, solvents, vapes 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 from educational programmes.

# Rational

* The Education Act (1998) provides that schools should promote the social and personal development of students and provide health education for them.
* The Social Personal and Health Education curriculum, of which substance misuse prevention education is an integral part, is a mandatory subject on the primary curriculum and must be taught to all primary pupils from junior infants to sixth class (DES Circular 022/2010).
* The National Drugs Strategy 2017-2025 requires every school to have a substance use policy in place
* Chapter 3 of the Reducing harm, supporting recovery document (A health led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025 outlines a number of strategic actions to be led by the department of education.

# School Position on Substance use

Smoking and Vaping

SN Baile Cuisin is a strictly no smoking or vaping area. Staff, parents and students are not permitted to smoke cigarettes/vape on school premises, during school activities or on school tours. All persons on school premises must comply with the no smoking/vaping policy.

Alcohol

SN Baile Cuisin is a strictly no alcohol area. Staff, parents and students are not permitted to possess or consume alcohol on the premises during school activities or on school tours.

Solvents

SN Baile Cuisin forbids the misuse of solvents by staff, parents or students on the premises during school activities or on school tours. All solvents must be kept in a safe, secure place. Any use of solvents by students is forbidden unless under the direct supervision of a teacher.

Medication

Any administration or use of medication on school premises during school activities or on school tours must comply with the SN Baile Cuisin policy on Administration of Medication. Students are not permitted to share their medication under any circumstances.

Drugs

Staff, parents and students are prohibited from possession, use or supply of illicit drugs on school premises during school activities or on school tours.

# Management of alcohol, tobacco, vape and drug related incidents

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

The school’s 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.
* Use or suspected use of alcohol, tobacco, vape and/or drugs on the school premises or during a school-related activity

***Cushinstown N.S. The reporting procedure for such incidents is:***

Step 1: Witness to drug related incident informs teacher/staff member/Principal

Step 2: Principal inform parents/guardians

Step 3: Principal informs Chairperson of Board of Management

Step 4: Gardai informed depending on seriousness of incident

Step 5: Area Health Board informed for disposal of items Parents will be involved by accepting the school’s Code of Behaviour and Enrolment 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 Chairperson of the BOM.

# Procedures for managing an incident

The Board of Management 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.

***Incidents involving pupils:***

* Class teacher will speak to the student about the incident and record details of the conversation and inform the Principal/Deputy Principal.
* Principal/Deputy Principal will meet with the student and discuss the incident further.
* Student’s parents/guardians will be notified and asked to attend a meeting with the Principal/Deputy Principal and the student.
* Due care will be important in deciding on a balance between a pastoral and a disciplinary response. In keeping with our Code of Behaviour, the above incidences would be considered serious offences and will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.
* Depending on the severity of the incident, the Gardaí may have to be notified.

***Incidents involving staff members:***

* 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.
* Principal/Deputy Principal will speak with the teacher about the incident and record details of the conversation referring to the Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers.
* Depending on the severity of the incident, the Gardaí may have to be notified.

***Incidents involving parents/guardians:***

* 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.
* Principal/Deputy Principal will speak with the parent/guardian about the incident and record details of the conversation.

***Incidents involving adults other than staff member or parent/guardian***

* 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

# Training and Education

The schools Board of Management intend to provide a safe and secure learning environment for our students. We believe that education is power and therefore education concerning substance abuse will be taught to pupils through the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum.

The school will aim to provide information and organise training for staff and parents in the area of substance use.

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management of SN Baile Cuisin on the 20th of February 2024. It will be reviewed on a cyclical basic or as the need arises.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Board of Management Principal/ Secretary, Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_