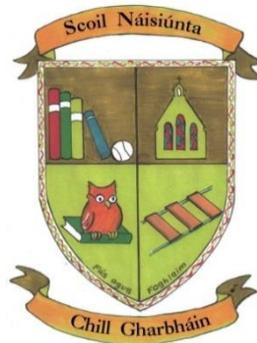


KILGARVAN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Substance Use Policy

Roll No 19458F

June 2025



Introduction:

The central objective of Kilgarvan Central School's Substance Use Policy is the welfare, care and protection of our students in line with the Education Act 1998 and the Education (Welfare) Act 2000. The Board of Management of Kilgarvan Central School acknowledges that the school has an important role in terms of the education of children in relation to alcohol, tobacco, solvents and drugs. 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.

The school sees itself as having a role in the process of enabling students to increase control over and improve their health. We endeavour to promote the well-being of our students by:

1. Providing a safe and healthy environment
2. Promoting positive health behaviours
3. Increasing knowledge about health
4. Promoting self-esteem and self-awareness of students
5. Working in partnership with the parents and the pupils.

Rationale:

- 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 is an integral part, is a mandatory subject on the curriculum and must be taught to all primary pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth class (DES Circular 022/2010)
- The National Drugs Strategy (interim) 2009 – 2016 requires every school to have a substance use policy in place.

- Action 21 of the National Drugs Strategy (interim) 2009 – 2016 mandates the department of education and Skills to monitor the implementation of substance use policies in schools through the whole school evaluation process as operated by the Inspectorate. It is also mandated to ensure that best practice is disseminated to all schools.
- Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice (2018 -2023, revised October 2019) Government of Ireland, Department of Education.

Objectives:

The objectives of this policy are:

1. To provide a comprehensive programme of education for all students in substance use issues
2. To equip the school to deal with issues relating to substance use in a planned and considered way and in accordance with its statutory responsibilities
3. To reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies in relation to substance use in education and prevention
4. To minimise the dangers caused to young people by substance misuse within schools/ communities
5. To manage incidents of substance misuse in a clear and consistent manner
6. To support parents and pupils in understanding and addressing substance misuse.

Scope of the Policy:

What is the school definition of a substance:

The term 'substance' will be interpreted in the widest possible sense to include the following (This list is not exhaustive)

- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- E-cigarettes / Vapes
- Legal and/or illegal drugs (including over the counter / prescribed medication)
- Other dangerous substances
- Other substances that are not appropriate for school-going child.

To whom does this policy refer?

While this policy primarily addresses substance use issues in respect of students only, elements of the policy also applies to school staff, parents/ guardians, and other involved in the school.

Parents / guardians, staff, external worker, visitors

- The use of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapes, illegal substances is prohibited in Kilgarvan Central School building and premises.

- In the event that there are external maintenance contractors or similar doing work in the school who require a cigarette break etc, they will be asked to take their break outside of the school premises and out of sight from the pupils.
- As a courtesy to our pupils, the school asks that parents / guardians do not smoke or vape outside the school walls at drop-off or collection times.

Pupils:

- The use of and possession of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapes, illegal substances, controlled substances etc, is strictly prohibited for all pupils. See below for procedures in relation to an incident of this nature occurring.
- This policy will apply to pupils during school time (including break times) and to all school related activities to include sporting activities, school tours etc.
- There may be some incidences where pupils require medication for health reasons. In this situation, the Administration of Medicine Policy should be consulted and adhered to. As part of this policy, staff will ensure that any arrangement is safe for all involved.

Prevention

Education:

The school implements a number of programmes to raise awareness, to enhance the well-being of its pupils and to promote positive self-esteem. Our school SPHE programme specifically covers this area and is delivered by class teachers in a safe and supportive environment. Other programmes used throughout the school include

- Lust for Life
- Stay Safe
- Relax Kids
- Fun Friends / Friends for Life

We also draw on the expertise available from other professionals within the community i.e parents, Gardai, Public Health Nurse where appropriate.

Management of alcohol, tobacco and drug-related incidents:

Incidents involving substance use might include (This list is not exhaustive)

- Use, or suspected use, of substances on the school premises or during a school-related activity
- Intoxication or unusual behaviour
- Disclosure about use
- Finding these substances and/or associated paraphernalia
- Possession and/supply on the school premises or during school-related activities
- Other

The school will respond to incidents involving substance use in a calm, planned and considered way. In certain cases it may be necessary to seek legal advice. Due care will be important in deciding on

an appropriate pastoral response to an incident involving alcohol, tobacco and drug use may include referral to a support agency. A disciplinary response will refer to the school Code of Behaviour.

Reporting Procedure:

1. The witness to a substance related incident informs teacher or staff member who in turns informs the principal
2. The principal informs the parents/guardians (if concerning a student in the school) and will liaise with relevant parties on an appropriate response.
3. The local gardaí may be informed depending on the seriousness of the incident
4. The HSE will be contacted to remove any substance related paraphernalia (if applicable / relevant)

Other courses of action which may be considered include the following:

- Seeking advice form an outside agency eg TUSLA, PHN etc
- Convening an emergency meeting of the Board of Management if the drug related issue concerns a staff member
- Providing and appropriate medical or first aid response if required, including contacting the emergency services.
- Liaising with the media. The school Critical Incident Policy may be consulted in this situation.

Provision of Training and Staff Development

Opportunities for staff training in the area of SPHE, Health and Well Being will be sought form OIde.

Links to Other Policies and Curricular Plans

- Code of Behaviour
- Administration of Medicine
- Health and safety Statement
- Critical Incident Policy
- Child safeguarding Statement
- SPHE School Plan

Implementation Arrangements, Roles and responsibilities:

- Board of Management
- Principal
- Teachers and Staff
- Parents
- Local Gardaí

- HSE

Communication, ratification and review:

- This policy was developed with the staff and shared with representatives of the Parents Association before being ratified
- This policy will be shared with all staff and parents / guardians. It will be available on the school website and on request
- The policy was ratified at a meeting of the Board of Management on 23rd of June 2025
- The is policy will be reviewed in 2030

Signed:

Jeremiah Mc Carthy

Date:23rd June 2025

Jeremiah McCarthy
Chairperson, Board of Management