

Asdee N.S.



Substance Use
Policy

Substance Use Policy

Introduction

The central objective of the Asdee NS Substance Use Policy is the welfare, care and protection of every student, in line with the Education Act 1998 and the Education (Welfare) Act 2000. Asdee N.S acknowledges that the school has an important role in terms of the education of children in relation to alcohol, tobacco, vapes, solvents and drugs. This policy reflects our school ethos and seeks to promote self-awareness, 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.

Asdee N.S. 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 and Board of Management of Asdee N.S. 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.

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 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 (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.

Definition

A drug can be defined as a chemical which alters how the body works, or how the person behaves or feels.

'Drugs' mentioned in this policy refer to any one or all of the following:

Over the counter (OTC) medicines

Prescription medicines

Tobacco/Nicotine/Vaping products

Alcohol

Solvents

Illegal Drugs

School Position on Substance Use

Smoking and Vaping

Asdee NS 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/outings or on school tours. All persons on school premises must comply with the no smoking/vaping policy.

Alcohol

Asdee NS 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 or any school outings.

Solvents

Asdee NS forbids the misuse of solvents by staff, parents or students on the premises during school activities or on school tours or any school outings. 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. See our Administration of medicine policy

Medication

Any administration or use of medication on school premises during school activities/outings or on school tours must comply with the Asdee NS 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/outings or on school tours.

Management of Alcohol, Tobacco, Vape and Drug-Related Incidents

Incidents involving the use of alcohol, tobacco, vape, and drug related incidents might be:

Use or suspected use of alcohol, tobacco, vape, or other drugs on the school premises or during a school related activity/outing.

Intoxication

Disclosure about use

Possession of these substances

Training and Education

The Asdee NS 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 provide information and organise training for staff and parents in the area of substance use when needed. This may include Inservice training in SPHE, Child Protection training, First Aid training, Health promotion/Drug awareness training, new staff will be briefed on all policies.

Procedures for Managing an Incident

The welfare, care and protection of our students will at all times inform our actions.

We will only deal with the facts as they present.

Disciplinary procedures will be considered if school rules are broken, in line with our Code of behaviour. We will endeavour however to ensure there is a balance between our pastoral and disciplinary response. Confidentiality will be of paramount importance . Information concerning drug incidents will only be disclosed on a need to know basis. However complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in line with the Department of Education 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary & Post Primary Schools'.

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 teachers/Staff members

The teacher/staff member may be asked to leave the premises if he/she presents at school under the influence.

Principal/Deputy Principal will speak with the teacher/staff member about the incident and record details of the conversation referring to the Teaching Council Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers or similar bodies.

Depending on the severity of the incident, the Gardaí may have to be notified.

Incidents involving parents/guardians:

The parent/guardian may be asked to leave the premises if he/she presents school under the influence. Pupils will not be released to parents/guardians who are under the influence.

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

Depending on the severity of the incident, the Gardaí and Tusla may have to be notified.

Success Criteria

All staff and students feel safe and secure and promote positive self-esteem in a healthy learning environment. Parents feel their children are safe, parents are informed and valued.

Implementation & Ratification

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Asdee N.S. at a meeting in February 2022.

It will be emailed to all parents and it will be reviewed as the need arises.

Chairperson of Board of Management : _____ **Date:** _____

Oliver Kearney

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management: _____ **Date:** _____

Michelle Sheehy