

Substance Use Policy

The school accepts that exposure to alcohol, tobacco and drugs is a reality for our students. However, it is imperative that as a school community we attempt to educate our students on the dangers of same and help them to gain the necessary skills to cope with the situations they may encounter.

This policy applies to all students up to the completion of their senior cycle studies on the school premises and in the course of school related activities.

Content of Programmes

The SPHE curriculum primarily provides for the education of students in first and second year with regard to Substance Use, where students are given the necessary age appropriate information and self esteem and self confidence are nurtured. In addition, specific sections in subjects such as CSPE, Religion, Home Economics, Biology and Physical Education consolidate the learning to protect oneself as the student progresses through the school.

The Pastoral Care team actively liaises with other teaching staff to provide Substance Use Awareness initiatives as the need arises. All students were exposed to a presentation on the dangers of alcohol in 2008. A frequent visitor to the school is the Community Garda who gives talks to groups of students. Al. Anon. gave a presentation to senior students on the dangers of alcohol misuse in May 2010.

Disciplinary response to alcohol, tobacco and drug related incidents

The school's disciplinary policy in relation to tobacco, alcohol and drugs is laid out in the Code of Behaviour.

Students are forbidden to smoke in school and during school related activities. Any student in breach of this rule will be given a suspension. The consumption and supply of alcohol and illegal substances are forbidden in school and during school related activities. A breach of this rule will result in a suspension.

Pastoral response to alcohol, tobacco and drug related incidents

School personnel seek at all times to aim towards a pastoral response where incidents of substance use are dealt with in a calm, measured, appropriate and supportive manner. Interventions may include counselling within the school, support for counselling outside the school, support and encouragement by staff as well as referral to appropriate agencies.

If tobacco, alcohol or drug related incidents persist in relation to a student despite the efforts of school personnel in providing pastoral support, the situation may need to be reviewed.

Provision of education and training

Inservice will be provided to staff as the need requires concerning substance use. The school will also provide inservice to parents/guardians when requested.

Useful Contact Numbers

Macroom Garda	026/20590	Orla Doyle, Macroom Community Garda
Dr. Con Kelleher	026/41783	Catherine Buckley, Macroom Community Drugs Counsellor
Dr. John Burke	026/41413	Eugene Daly, Coordinator of West Cork Al. Anon.Leap
Dr. P. Cronin	026/41088	
Dr. Harte	026/41281	
Southdoc	18500335999	
Macroom Hospital	026/41002	
Macroom Health Centre	026/20650	
Cork University Hospital	021/4546400	

Ratified by the Board of Management of St. Mary's Secondary School February 2011

This Policy will be reviewed in February 2013