

Polasaí ar Mhí-Úsáid Substaintí

This policy applies to students, teachers, parents and users of the school building. It applies during school time (including break times) and to all school related activities. It also applies to all other events/occasions when the School is in use.

Réamhrá/Introduction

The decision was taken by the Board of Management and Teaching Staff of Gaelscoil Lios na nÓg to draw up a substance use policy after considering the following:-

- In-service in SPHE in 2002-03, and in-service in developing a Substance Use Policy.
- The National Drugs Strategy, 'Building on Experience', is now Government Policy and it requires schools to have a drugs policy in place (Action 43).
- The report from the National Advisory Committee on Drugs entitled 'Drug Use Prevention' underlines the importance of schools developing drugs policies.
- To develop a shared understanding of the term 'drugs' and to define the school's agreed position in relation to drug related issues.
- To equip schools to deal with issues relating to substance misuse in a planned and considered way and in accordance with their statutory responsibilities.
- To assist teachers in their classroom experience.

Aidhmeanna Chur i bhFeidhm an Pholasaí/Aims of Policy Implementation

- To ensure the welfare, care and protection of every young person as provided for in the Education Act, 1998 and the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000.
- To ensure that the school complies with legislative requirements and principles of good practice.
- To make a contribution, in the area of education and prevention through the SPHE programme.
- To minimize the dangers caused to children by drug misuse and drug misusers within schools/communities.
- To manage drug related incidents in a planned manner.
- To support parents and pupils in addressing drug misuse.

This policy was developed in consultation with staff and An Bord Bainistíochta. It should be read with the An Cód Iompair.

This policy will be available to teachers, parents, An Bord Bainistíochta, ancillary staff, parents committee and any other person or group who use the school.



Fealsúnacht na Scoile/School Philosophy

Is Gaelscoil í Lios na nÓg a bhfuil oideachas iomlán an pháiste tré mheán na Gaeilge mar phríomhaidhm aici. Tá an scoil faoi phatrúnacht an Fhorais Phátrúnachta agus feidhmíonn an scoil faoi ghnáthrialacha na Roinne Oideachais.

Curaclam páiste-lárnach atá i bhfeidhm a aithníonn luach agus eagsúlacht gach páiste agus a chuireann ar a chumas an fhorbairt iomlán is dual dó/di a dhéanamh mar pháiste, agus ina shaol sa tsochaí. Tá sé mar aidhm againn timpeallacht shuaimhneach a chrúthú ina ndéantar cúram d'fhorbairt intleachtúil, fhisiciúil, chúlurtha, mhóralta, spioradálta, shóisialta agus mhothúchanach an pháiste. Déantar dea-luachanna Críostúla a chothú. Spreagtar páistí i ngach gnéith den chultúr gaelach—teanga, cluichí, ceol, damhsa agus traidisiúin. Tá rannpháirtíocht agus tacaíocht na dtuistí mar chuid thábhachtach de shaol na scoile.

Lios na nÓg is a Gaelscoil whose primary aim is to fully educate the child through the medium of Irish. It is under the patronage of An Foras Pátrúnachta and functions in accordance with the rules of the Department of Education and Science. A child-centred curriculum is in place which recognises the value and uniqueness of each child and where everyone is encouraged to develop to their full potential.

We strive to provide a peaceful, caring environment in which all aspects of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral, spiritual, social and emotional development are promoted. Good Christian values are also promoted. We encourage the children to participate in every aspect of our Irish culture—language, games, music, dance and traditions. Parental participation and support is an important aspect of school life.

Fís na Scoile/School Vision

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 students by:

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

Cad is Druga Ann?/Definition of a Drug

A drug can be defined as a chemical which causes changes in the way the human body functions mentally, physically or emotionally. For the purpose of this policy we are concerned with drugs which have the power to change a previous mood and the way a person thinks about things and drugs of which the taker may become physically or more often psychologically dependent.



Soláthar faoi láthair/Current Provision

Provision is currently made in the school for alcohol, tobacco and drug education through SPHE. Specific Programmes include An Clár Misneach, i nGrá Dé agus aoichainteoirí.

Aidhmenna an Pholasaí/Aims of Policy

The child should be enabled to:

- be self-confident and have a positive sense of self-esteem
- develop a sense of personal responsibility
- develop an understanding of healthy living, an ability to implement healthy behaviour and a willingness to participate in activities that promote and sustain health
- develop a sense of safety and an ability to protect himself/herself from danger and abuse
- make decisions, solve problems and take appropriate actions in various personal, social and health contexts
- become aware of, and discerning about, the various influences on choices and decisions.

Cur i bhFeidhm an Pholasaí/Implementation of the Policy

The policy will be available from the principal, the Board of Management, teachers and other staff members. Enrolment will be on acceptance by them of this and other school policy documents.

The school wishes to make clear that the primary role of substance misuse prevention rests with the parents.

Oideachas maidir le mí-úsáid substaintí/Education concerning substance misuse

It is accepted amongst educationalists that education about alcohol, tobacco and drugs is best carried out by teachers through the inclusion of SPHE in the curriculum. In Lios na nÓg, education about alcohol, tobacco and drugs will be provided in the broader context of a Social, Personal and Health Education Programme which is delivered in the context of a supportive whole school environment. This SPHE programme will from time to time draw on the expertise available from the community i.e. parents, HSE and Gardaí. The use of an outside visitor/speaker to enhance the work done in class will always be considered in the context of the SPHE programme and will always be undertaken in the presence of the teacher.

Polasaí Scoile maidir le Caitheamh Tobaic/Smoking – School Policy

- The school is a non-smoking area.
- Students are not permitted to smoke or possess cigarettes on the school premises or in the school environment (i.e. clós na scoile).
- Visitors will comply with the non-smoking policy.
- Pupils found smoking on school premises will be reported to the Principal and parents will be informed.

Polasaí Scoile maidir le hAlcól/Alcohol – School Policy

- The school is an alcohol free area.

- Pupils will not be allowed to bring alcohol into the school or to consume alcohol in school or during any school activities.
- If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of alcohol, she/he will immediately inform the Principal and consult on what action should be taken.
- Where a student comes to school under the influence of alcohol, their parents will be called in to take them home.
- Students breaking these rules will be dealt with according to the school's disciplinary procedure.
- If alcohol is required for an after hours school function, permission shall be sought from An Bord Bainistíochta.
- Alcohol will not be used as prizes in school raffles.

Polasaí Scoile maidir le Drugaí Mídhleathacha agus Tuaslagóirí/Illicit Drugs and Solvents – School Policy

- Students are forbidden from being in possession of or using illicit drugs or solvents in the school premises.
- Illicit drugs found on school premises will be locked away and the Gardaí contacted to dispose of them. Teachers are advised not to transport illicit substances at any time.
- If a teacher is of the opinion that a student is under the influence of illicit drugs or solvents, she/he will immediately inform the Principal and consult on what action should be taken.
- Where the school suspects trafficking of illicit drugs, an investigation will be carried out. Parents of any student involved will be informed. The advice and assistance of the Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer will be sought.
- An Bord Bainistíochta will expect parents to inform the Principal or teacher if they suspect their child of drug taking.

Polasaí Scoile maidir le Leigheas a Dháileadh/Administration of Medicines – School Policy

- Féach Polasaí Garchabhrach agus Leighis
- Training and Staff Development
- Teachers have received in-service in SPHE
- The Board of Management will ensure at the beginning of each school year that staff have adequate First Aid Training.
- Teachers have attended a course on the Substance Misuse Prevention Programme or the course has been covered as part of the B.Ed. (An Clár Misneach).
- Parent education – parents are made aware of their child's participation in the Misneach Programme.
- All Staff are aware of the Misuse of Drugs Acts 1977 and 1984. Offences under these acts include possession with intent to supply and possession for personal use. Staff are aware that if deemed necessary the local Gardaí will provide more details on the drug laws.

Freagrachtaí/Roles and Responsibilities

The policy has been developed in consultation with representatives of the teaching staff and An Bord Bainistíochta. It will also be implemented and evaluated by these parties.

Crítéir Ráthúlachta/Success Criteria

We will know this policy has been implemented if:-

- the teachers preparation, planning and teaching is based on this policy
- procedures outlined in the policy have been consistently followed.

We will know it has achieved its aims if the pupils have been enabled to:-

- be self-confident and have a positive sense of self-esteem
- develop a sense of personal responsibility
- develop an understanding of healthy living, an ability to implement healthy behaviour and a willingness to participate in activities that promote and sustain health
- develop a sense of safety and an ability to protect himself/herself from danger and abuse
- make decisions, solve problems and take appropriate actions in various personal, social and health contexts
- become aware of, and discerning about, the various influences on choices and decisions

Athbhreithniú/Review

The policy will be regularly evaluated and updated where necessary.



Róisín Ní Ghuidhir, Cathaoirleach An Bhoird Bhainistíochta