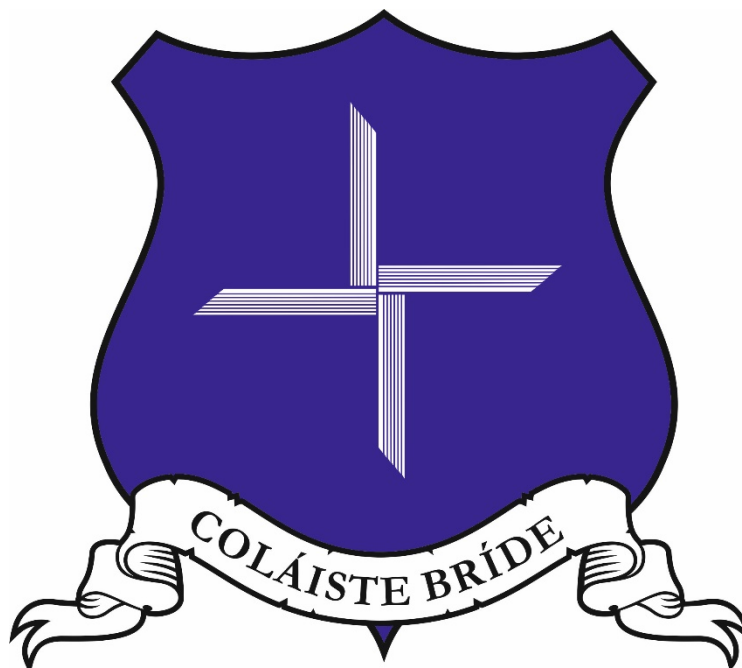


Substance Misuse Policy



Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

Ratified by the Board of Management

**Signed: _____
Chairperson,
Board of Management**

Review Date: 13th May, 2019

**Signed: _____
Secretary,
Board of Management**

MISSION STATEMENT

*“We are working to promote a secure and caring environment,
Where Respect, Responsibility and Christian commitment grow,
Drawing forth the positive of each individual”*

Coláiste Bríde is a Catholic School founded by the Mercy Order under the trusteeship of CEIST. It has a long tradition of academic excellence and is committed to the development of the whole student. It offers a curriculum designed to meet fully the needs of the student.

The school wishes to cater for the academic, spiritual, moral, aesthetic, interpersonal and physical needs of the student. The characteristics of the school are the pursuit of tolerance, compassion and a sense of justice and equality for all.

We aim to develop in each student, confidence, self-respect and respect for others.

The school and its staff value its partnership with parents in meeting the personal and educational requirements of students and staff alike.

The core values of CEIST are:

Promoting Spiritual and Human Development

We believe a knowledge of and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ gives meaning and purpose to our lives.

Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning

We are committed to excellence and to continually improving the quality of teaching and learning.

Showing Respect for Every Person

We respect the unique and intrinsic value of every person.

Creating Community

Our schools are faith communities of welcome and hospitality where Gospel values are lived and where there is special care for those most in need.

Being Just and Responsible

We seek to act justly and responsibly in all our relationships

Introduction:

Coláiste Bríde aspires to create an environment where quality teaching and learning can take place. This environment managed with fairness and firmness promotes the growth and development of the whole person allowing each person in our care to develop personally, educationally, socially and spiritually.

In keeping with this, the Substance Abuse Policy is part of our pastoral approach to providing a caring and supportive learning environment. The Substance Abuse Policy is one among many that serve to endorse the school's ethos.

This policy sets out the framework within which Coláiste Bríde manages issues relating to problem alcohol and substance use. Our objective is the welfare and protection of each member of our school community.

It addresses:

- The education we provide to students and staff relating to alcohol and substance use
- The management of incidents that relate to these substances

The term 'substance' here includes alcohol, tobacco, nicotine (to include E-cigarettes), drugs, prescription medicines and other mind/mood altering substances.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Coláiste Bríde Code of Positive Behaviour and the Coláiste Bríde Suspension and Expulsion Policy.

Scope:

It applies during school time and to all school related trips and activities whether occurring inside or outside school hours.

Relationship to our school mission statement:

This policy is part of a general approach which has been adopted by Coláiste Bríde to ensure a healthy, caring and supportive teaching and learning community. It has been developed in line with our mission statement which has at its core, care for every member of our school. All procedures and sanctions will be in line with that caring ethos.

Rationale:

- Coláiste Bríde sees itself as having an important role in the process of enabling students to make good choices in relation to their health and general well-being
- Research and reports indicate that the prevalence of tobacco, nicotine products, alcohol and drug misuse continues to pose serious challenges for the school community
- The 'Education Act 1998' holds that we are obliged to promote the social and personal development of our students and to provide health education for them
- Government policy as set out in the 'National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008' focuses on the importance of the school's contribution to education and prevention and requires them to have a policy in place (Action 43)
- DES guidelines (Circular 18/02) also state that schools should be actively engaged in developing and agreeing a policy

Policy Aims:

Coláiste Bríde aims:

- To provide an age appropriate education programme to all of its students which will seek to build on and complement existing programmes in Science, Home Economics , SPHE, RE, PE and CSPE and the junior cycle Wellbeing programme
- To equip our students with the knowledge and skills to make informed and healthy decisions around alcohol and substance use
- To encourage students to examine attitudes to alcohol, tobacco and drugs in their lives and in their communities
- To ensure that we deal with incidents relating to substance use in a planned, consistent, caring and considered way in accordance with our statutory responsibilities

Policy Content:

Coláiste Bríde does not accept or tolerate the possession, use or supply of banned or prohibited substances and/or drug paraphernalia by any member of the school community in the school, on school trips and outings or during any school related activity. While it is recognised that the problem of alcohol and substance use remain a serious issue it is important to acknowledge that the majority of young people make good decisions around alcohol and substance use.

Parents/Guardians of students taking prescribed medication must inform the school in writing of this fact. (Please see our Administration of Medicine Policy). No medicines will be administered by staff

with the exception of medication supplied by parents/guardians to be administered in medical emergencies.

Substance Use Education and Prevention:

Coláiste Bríde, within the resources available to it, will provide appropriate education programmes on problem alcohol and substance use for all of its students. Research has shown that the most effective programmes are those provided within the broader structure and context of a Social, Personal and Health Education Programme and in conjunction with the RE, Science, PE and Home Economics programmes. We will facilitate one forty-minute period of SPHE per week for each of the three years of Junior Cycle as part of the junior cycle wellbeing programme.

Role of Parents/Guardians:

Parents/Guardians have a supportive role to play in regard to our education programmes in relation to this policy. They are expected to

- Recognise their role as partners with Coláiste Bríde in relation to informing and educating their children on this issue
- Assist and cooperate fully with the school as it seeks to deal justly and effectively with incidents relating to this policy
- Inform themselves on issues relating to this policy with the assistance of the school

Management of Incidents:

In the event of an incident we will seek to strike a balance between the welfare of the student(s) involved, the welfare of the rest of the school community and the school's reputation. We will also endeavour to apply restorative principles whenever appropriate. Restorative practice is a fair and respectful method of repairing relationships by establishing trust, developing empathy and repairing harm.

An incident will be defined as

- The use or suspected use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and/or any mind-altering substances on the school premises and/or during a school activity

- Intoxicated behaviour
- Disclosure about use
- Finding substances and/or associated articles
- Possession and/or supply in school or during a school activity

The Principal or his/her delegate will be responsible for

- Receiving reports
- Making decisions regarding investigation, communication and disclosure of information
- Keeping all relevant parties informed
- The secure and safe storage of documentation
- Taking possession of any banned substances/articles

Procedure:

1. The safety of the school community is of utmost importance, so the school reserves the right to suspend any student suspected of being involved in a substance use incident pending an investigation.
2. The reporting staff member will provide the Principal with a written report of the incident.
3. The school will carry out a full investigation.
4. The school will take possession of any substance as described previously and associated articles and a record will be kept of all items unless otherwise instructed by outside agencies.
5. All participants and witnesses will be interviewed, and statements will be recorded as will outcomes, decisions taken, disciplinary and support measures and any possible appeals arising.
6. If a student is suspected of supplying/using drugs then the Gardai will be informed. The school will liaise with any appropriate outside agency.
7. The full range of usual sanctions in relation to a verified incident may be implemented by the school as outlined in our Code of Positive Behaviour and Suspension and Expulsion Policy.
8. The school will provide appropriate pastoral supports and information in relation to counselling/medical services, (see appendix 1).

Training:

Coláiste Bríde aims to provide practical training for staff in such areas as the recognition of substances and their effects. We will facilitate training for teachers who are delivering the relevant programmes already listed.

We will provide opportunities to attend information meetings/workshops to Parents/Guardians and Board Members.

Success Criteria:

That the school is free of drugs and drug abuse; that incidents and reasonable suspicions are reported and acted upon.

Monitoring Procedures:

Monitoring takes into account the fact that, with the exception of tobacco smoking, there is little known evidence of drug or substance abuse among students while attending this school.

Monitoring requires vigilance on the part of everybody, teachers, parents, students and other staff or visitors to the school. Monitoring also requires that any concerns or reasonable suspicions be reported immediately to the principal or deputy principal or year head.

Amendments:

The Board of Management of Coláiste Bríde is committed to playing an active role in the implementation of this policy and undertakes to review and revise it, considering changes to legislation, experience and other relevant developments.