



**COLÁISTE ÉANNA C.B.S.**

*Catholic Boys Secondary School, Ballyroan, Dublin*

## Substance Abuse Policy

### **Rationale:**

*The hallmarks of an Edmund Rice school are care, especially for those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged in any way.....*

ERST Charter, p17.

*Colaiste Eanna is a Catholic Secondary School for boys in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice. As a community, we aim to nurture mutual respect among all members in a safe environment. The personal, social, spiritual and academic development of all is promoted. The school is committed to providing an ordered learning environment which encourages the school community to realise its full potential*  
Coláiste Éanna Mission Statement.

Our school is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and caring environment for all who work and study within its campus. The use of prohibited substances that are known to injurious to health and wellbeing will not be tolerated.. Coláiste Éanna will treat any violation of this Substance Abuse Policy to be a very serious breach of discipline. Those who violate our Policy on Substance Abuse, may face harsh sanctions, but in keeping with our ethos of care will be offered any support and advice at the schools's disposal.

This Policy recognises the seriousness of the threat posed to the healthy, social, physical and intellectual development of young people by the use and misuse of legal and illegal drugs, including tobacco and alcohol.

This policy recognises the prevalence and accessibility of damaging substances to our young people and seeks to work in partnership with parents/ guardians and the wider community to promote good health and lifestyle.

The promotion of good health and lifestyle will be taught across all subjects in our curriculum but specifically in PE, SPHE, RE and Science. Substance Abuse issues will also be raised in the Annual Health Awareness week.

In keeping with our ethos of partnership, the Parents Association and parents/guardians generally will be informed of such positive health promotion events. Coláiste Éanna sees parents and home as essential partners to informing and educating their children regarding substance abuse. The School expects parents/ guardians to be fully supportive of the school policy and approach in relation to substance abuse.

This Policy is aware of and is informed by the legislative requirements of:

The Education Act (1998) and The Education Welfare Act (2000)

This Substance Abuse Policy is part of the Coláiste Éanna Whole School Development Planning and intersects, links and overlaps with elements of the SPHE, RE, Anti-bullying, Code of Behaviour, Child Protection, Pastoral Care Policies.

## 1. Definitions

- 1.1 Prohibited Substances** refers to all banned or prohibited substances at The School and includes all substances covered under the *Misuse of Drugs Act, 1984*, or any prescribed medication not validated by a current medical prescription, and any volatile substance and any alcohol and any tobacco. This also includes solvents, contraband cigarettes or alcohol for the purposes of sale. Examples of prohibited substance may include; Benzylpiperazine ;Cannabis and Cannabis resin (*hashish*) ;Cocaine; Heroin etc. This is not an exhaustive list.
- 1.2 The School** refers to anywhere within the precincts of Coláiste Éanna to include school buildings and school grounds. The School also refers to any activity situated away from the school precincts wherein an activity or function, academic, sporting or otherwise organised by Coláiste Éanna takes place, an example would be school field trips, sporting or other ECA functions etc. The School also refers to public property, road and pathways within the immediate vicinity of Coláiste Éanna.
- 1.3 Drug paraphernalia** refers any item that may be deemed to be used for the taking of prohibited substances such as hash pipes, ‘bongs’, syringes etc. It also refers to literature or any material promoting the use of Prohibited Substances.

## 2. Use of Prohibited Substances.

- 2.1** When dealing with any allegation of misconduct involving a prohibited substance, all of the factors relating to the allegation need to be taken into consideration, including the type of substance involved.
- 2.2** Tobacco.  
Smoking cigarettes (hand rolled or manufactured), electronic cigarettes, pipes and cigars, or the possession of cigarettes are prohibited in the School. The sanction for smoking in the School is the immediate issuing of a ‘Yellow Docket’ by the pupil’s Year Head ( see *The Ladder of Referral*, Code of Behaviour, P7) .
- 2.3** Alcohol.  
The consumption of alcohol in the School is prohibited. The possession of alcohol is prohibited. The sanction for consumption or possession is Suspension for an appropriate period of time. The duration of Suspension will depend on the severity of the misdemeanour. (See Suspension, pp19-21, Code of Behaviour)

If the Principal, Deputy Principal or Year Head is of the opinion that the student is drunk in school due to alcohol consumption or any other use of a prohibited substance (for example ‘hung over’), the student may be suspended for an appropriate period of time. .

#### 2.4 Drug paraphernalia

The possession or use of any item which may be deemed to be used in the consumption of illicit and illegal substances may result in a period of Suspension being imposed. The distribution of literature or any material with the deliberate intention of promoting the use of illicit or illegal substances may result in a period of suspension being imposed.

The Principal, in consultation with the Year Head, may consider it appropriate to refer to the Board of Management to request a longer Suspension, depending on the seriousness of the offences.

The Principal may refer such incidents to An Gardaí Siochána.

### **3 The use of Prohibited Substances.**

- 3.1 The possession of illicit and illegal drugs by a student within the School will be referred to An Gardaí Siochána. Any pupil found in possession of Prohibited Substances, whether for personal use or with the intention to distribute or sell such substances, may be immediately Suspended by the Principal in accordance with the Code of Behaviour, pending an investigation into the matter.

Following an investigation at Section 4 of this policy the Board of Management may decide to suspend the student up to 20 days or permanently exclude the student from the school in accordance with the Code of Behaviour and the NEWB.

In the case of a student being allowed by the Board to return to school following a drug or alcohol related incident, the Board reserves its right to make whatever conditions it deems necessary. These conditions may include external counselling, ongoing testing for drug abuse and ongoing consultations with external agencies such as Juvenile Liaison Officer, other Gardaí, Health Board etc.

- 3.2 Any prohibited substances will be confiscated by the school authorities and kept in a safe place until the investigation is completed or the school is advised by an outside authority.

### **4. Breaches of the Substance Abuse Policy.**

- 4.1 All allegations of breaches of this substance Abuse Policy should be reported to the Principal or Deputy Principal as soon as possible. A thorough and fair investigation will be conducted by the Principal, Deputy Principal or Year Head, or another person designated by the Principal. Written accounts of this investigation will be kept. The boy's parents will be informed of this investigation process as soon as is practicable.
- 4.2 In any breach of this Substance Abuse Policy, the school will endeavour to strike a balance between the welfare of the pupil involved and the welfare of the school community and the reputation of the school.

To ensure the safety of all concerned and to facilitate dealing effectively with the situation any or all of the following steps may be taken:

- Removal of the individual or individuals (and belongings) to a supervised and secure away from the main student body.
- Search any area where the school suspects that prohibited substances may have been secreted, including the locker of the individual/s concerned. (Lockers are rented and are on school property and are deemed to be essentially school property). The school reserves the right to hold any personal belongings or other property until such time as the necessary authorization has been received to search them.

In its duty of care to the whole school community, the school may be obliged to contact or make certain disclosures to outside authorities such as An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive, or Officers of the Courts.

- 4.3 The school may need to engage the expert assistance of an appropriate third party to investigate a substance abuse incident.
- 4.4 A pupil involved in a breach of this Substance Abuse Policy will be referred to the School Counsellor or another member of the school Pastoral Care Team with the intention of offering support or advice concerning the Substance Abuse issue. The School counsellor will not have any direct role in the investigation or the imposition of sanctions.
- 4.5 Teachers and other staff may need to be informed of incidents of breaches of this Substance Abuse Policy, where appropriate, and in circumstances where a pupil may be considered to be in danger of harming himself or others.

This Substance Abuse Policy was ratified by the Board of Management

on.....

Signed..... (Chairperson)

Signed.....(Secretary/ Principal)

Review: This Substance Abuse Policy will be subject to review by the Board of Management.