



St. Brigid's Boys' National School Substance Use Policy

Document Version History and Review Schedule:

Reviewed/Ratified Date	Signed by	Next Review Due
09.03.2026	Nick Baird (BOM Chairperson) Stephen Flood (Acting School Principal)	2029

Document Management:

Review Frequency	Every three years
Viewable on School Website	Yes

Introductory Statement:

St. Brigid's Boys National School is committed to addressing the needs of the whole school in relation to drugs. This policy has been drawn up by the Principal, Teachers, Parents/Guardians and approved by the Board of Management. In this policy 'Drug' means any substance which changes the way the body functions, mentally, physically or emotionally. The School recognises that drugs, both legal and illegal, are available in the local community and that the School, as part of that community, has an important role in terms of education, prevention, support and the handling of drug- related incidents.

The School Ethos:

St. Brigid's Boys' National School seeks to provide a happy environment for its pupils by promoting a good relationship between teachers, pupils and parents, creating an environment which is conducive to the development of self-esteem and individual talents of each child and which will enable him/her to attain the highest level of intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural achievement.

This Ethos guides the School's Substance Use Policy

- The possession, use or supply of illegal drugs in the school, in outside activities or in non-school time by any member of the school community is contrary to the ethos of the school.
- The school must be informed if a student has a medical condition which involves using medication in school time.
- It is the policy of the school not to administer any medicine of any form to any pupils without the explicit permission of parents.
- The administration of medication form must be completed in advance in such cases.

Aims of this policy:

- To ensure that the school complies with legislative requirements and principles of good practice
- To protect the rights of students and staff by providing a safe and healthy environment
- To foster in students a sense of responsibility for their own health and the health of others
- To promote skills and attitudes that enable students to cope with the dangers of drugs in society
- To provide outlets for creativity and sport through in-school and extra curricular activities
- To educate students and parents about the dangers of substance abuse, smoking and alcohol, vaping/e-cigarettes and tobacco pouches.
- To provide information on drugs and their dangers through:
 1. Curricular programmes S.P.H.E / Walk Tall Programme
 2. Information Leaflets
 3. Posters
 4. 'No Smoking/Vaping' signs
 5. Projects
 6. Staff development on the area of health promotion

Roles and Responsibilities:

Holder of Post of Responsibility for S.P.H.E.

- Co-ordinating the drawing up / review of the policy on Substance Use
- Liaising with outside agencies regarding programmes, talks etc
- Organising staff development

Principal and Deputy Principal:

- Have overall responsibility for ensuring policy is followed
- Keep records of incidents
- Deal appropriately with each individual incident
- Inform relevant persons and agencies
- Follow up to monitor outcomes

Teachers:

- Awareness of the school policy on Substance Use
- Teaching of the S.P.H.E Programme
- Report to the Principal incidents of substance abuse which come their attention
- Provide the relevant age appropriate information and materials as per curriculum.
- Act in supportive capacity as necessary

Ancillary Staff

- Report incidents to Principal and Deputy Principal

Parents / Students

- The school has a role of informing the parents regarding the dangers and signs of substance abuse.
- The school will support parents in ensuring that children get appropriate support and assistance.
- The Parents Association organise talks for parents in relation to substance use/abuse.

Management of an incident:

The following should be informed – Principal, parents, relevant agencies

- Details of the incident should be recorded and retained by the Principal and remain confidential
- Parents will be informed sensitively and support offered to them
- Sanctions will be implemented as per school discipline policy
- The Principal or Deputy Principal will handle all media enquiries. They will not comment on individual cases but will refer to the school policy and procedures in place to manage any drug related incident
- If a parent/student refuses to accept sanction the matter will be referred to the Board of Management

Review:

- The Principal has overall responsibility for implementing the policy
- The Principal will ensure that the policy is updated and its effectiveness monitored in line with the review schedule.
- The policy will be reviewed in the light of changing legislation, information and feedback from the school committee.

Policy Sign Off

Signed: Chairperson	
Date:	09.03.2026
Signed: Principal	
Date:	09.03.2026