



Derryooper National School Policies

Roll Number: 17547R

Patron: Most Rev. Michael Duignan, Bishop of Clonfert

Chairperson: Fr. Kieran O'Rourke P.P.

Phone: 0860483344

Principal: Padraig Lohan

Substance Use Policy

1. Introduction

Derryooper National School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students, staff, and the wider school community. The school recognises that substance misuse, including tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, poses significant risks to health and well-being. This **Substance Use Policy** has been developed in line with **Department of Education and Skills (DES) Guidelines, the National Drugs Strategy, and the Education (Welfare) Act 2000.**

2. Aims of this Policy

The aim of this policy is to:

- Promote **health, well-being, and personal responsibility.**
- Prevent **substance misuse** in the school community.
- Educate students on the **dangers of substance use and misuse.**
- Outline procedures for **responding to incidents involving substance use.**

3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- **All students, staff, and visitors** to the school.
- **School property, school-related activities, and events.**
- **The use, possession, distribution, and influence of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and related substances.**

4. Preventative Education Measures

Derryoover National School promotes **Substance Use Awareness** through:

- **Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE)** lessons.
- **Guest speakers and workshops** on the dangers of substance abuse.
- **Partnerships with local health services, Gardaí, and community groups.**
- **Parental involvement** in drug education and awareness.

5. School Rules on Substance Use

- **Alcohol, tobacco, vapes, and illegal drugs are strictly prohibited on school premises and at school events.**
- **Students found in possession of, using, or distributing substances will face disciplinary action.**
- **Prescription medication must be disclosed and stored appropriately (see Administration of Medicines Policy).**
- **Staff are not permitted to use tobacco, vapes, or alcohol on school property during school hours.**

6. Managing Incidents of Substance Misuse

A. Student Involvement in Substance Use

If a student is suspected of substance use:

- The **Principal will investigate** the situation.
- Parents/guardians will be **notified immediately.**
- A **meeting will be arranged** with parents to discuss concerns.
- Support services such as **counselling and external agencies** may be recommended.

If a student is found in possession of or distributing substances:

- The **substance will be confiscated** and securely stored.
- The **Gardaí may be contacted** if necessary.
- The **Board of Management will be informed** and disciplinary action may be taken.

B. Staff or Visitor Involvement in Substance Use

- Any staff member or visitor found in possession of, using, or distributing illegal substances on school premises will be **subject to investigation** and may face disciplinary measures.

7. Confidentiality & Support

- Any concerns raised will be treated **confidentially** where possible.
- The school will work with parents, guardians, and **external agencies** (e.g., HSE, NEPS, TUSLA) to provide **support and guidance** to students in need.
- Students struggling with substance-related issues will be **encouraged to seek help** rather than punished.

8. Implementation & Review

- This policy will be **reviewed annually** and updated in line with best practices and legal requirements.
- All staff, parents, and students will be **informed of this policy** and expected to adhere to it.

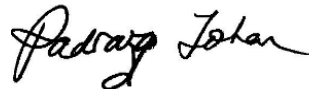
9. Policy Approval

This **Substance Use Policy** has been prepared by the **Principal** and approved by the **Board of Management**.

Signed:

Chairperson, Board of Management: _____

Principal, Derryoover National School:



Date:

19 February 2025
