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St. Angela's Secondary School
Ursuline Convent
Waterford
Telephone: (051) 876510
Roll No: 64990D

St. Angela's School

Substance Use Policy

Mission Statement:

St. Angela's School is a girls' Catholic school which aims to cherish the uniqueness of each individual and develop her to her full potential, in the spirit of the Ursuline ethos.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to students, staff, visitors to the school and all other users of the school premises. Students will be governed by this policy throughout the school day, when in school uniform, when representing the school or involved in any school activity both during and outside normal school hours.

The Code may also apply to students whose misbehaviour outside school is connected with issues in school or whose misbehaviour outside school has a direct bearing on the school day and / or the safety or wellbeing of members of the school community while in school.

RATIONALE:

The world in which we live presents young people with many challenges that affect their health and wellbeing. Exposure to alcohol, tobacco, vape aerosol and drugs is part of this reality. St. Angela's School aims to promote a healthy lifestyle for all in a safe and supportive environment.

The Education Act 1998 provides that schools should promote the social and personal development of students and provide health education for them.

The National Drugs Strategy requires schools to have a policy on substance use in place.

GOALS OF THIS POLICY:

St. Angela's School is committed to:

- providing a safe environment for teaching and learning.
- encouraging healthy living.
- creating an awareness of drug related issues for students, staff and parents.
- managing incidents of substance misuse in a fair and consistent manner.
- supporting students and parents in understanding and addressing substance misuse.

SCHOOL POLICY:

St. Angela's does not accept or tolerate the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs, alcohol or other harmful substances including solvents and inhalants by any student, staff or visitor in the school or on school trips and outings. Smoking or vaping is strictly forbidden in the school, on school grounds, outside the school gates and on school related activities.

1. Drug Education

Drug Awareness Education is part of the SPHE course for Junior Cycle. It is desirable that this important topic is addressed in all year groups and in a cross-curricular format. Planned and integrated contributions from outside agencies are also considered to be very valuable.

2. Management of an incident of substance misuse

St. Angela's is committed to applying fair and considered responses to drug related incidents and suspected drug related incidents that may occur in school or on school trips.

Drug related incidents involving illegal drugs must be reported immediately to the principal who will contact the guards and other agencies as deemed necessary. The principal will contact the parents/ guardians of the students involved in the incident.

A written account of the incident including statements from students and staff will be recorded. A school sanction will be imposed as outlined in the Code of Behaviour and Suspension Policies.

Supports from our Pastoral Care team are available to students and parents affected by an incident of substance misuse.

3. Provision of training and staff development

The Social Personal Health Education (SPHE) support service and the Health Service Executive (HSE) provide a range of supports for schools including Health Education, Health Promotion and Adolescent Counselling Services.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES:

The following policies are linked to our Substance Use Policy – Health and Safety, Code of Behaviour, Suspension Policy, SPHE Policy and Whole school Guidance Policy.

MONITORING AND REVIEW:

Ongoing review and evaluation will take cognizance of changing information, legislation and developments in school based programmes.

RATIFICATION:

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of St. Angela's School on 9/5/23

Signed: Aidan McGeath

Chairperson of Board of Management