

***Meánscoil na mBráithre Críostaí, Cill Chainnigh***  
**Christian Brothers Secondary School, Kilkenny.**

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SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY January 2023

<b>School Name:</b>	Christian Brothers Secondary School, Kilkenny
<b>School Address:</b>	James's Street, Kilkenny
<b>School Details:</b>	CBS Kilkenny is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the Trusteeship and the Patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. The School is grant aided by the Department of Education & Skills and is a single sex (boys) school.
<b>School Management:</b>	The Board of Management of CBS Kilkenny is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

## **Mission Statement**

Inspired by its founder, CBS Kilkenny aims to provide Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition. The school endeavours to be a caring Christian Community which promotes to the best of its ability the personal, spiritual, physical and intellectual development of its students.

## **Ethos**

As an Edmund Rice School, CBS Kilkenny seeks to promote the five key elements of and Edmund Rice School as espoused by the ERST Charter:

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values
- Promoting partnership in the school community
- Excelling in teaching and learning
- Creating a caring school community
- Inspiring transformational leadership

## 1. Introduction

- a) For the purpose of this policy the term SUBSTANCE is defined as “any substance which changes the way the body functions, mentally, physically or emotionally”. This definition includes not only the whole range of illegal substances available in modern society, but also legally available products such as over-the-counter and prescription medicines, tobacco products, e-cigarettes and related vaping products, alcohol and solvents. This list is not exhaustive.
- b) This policy reflects the values of the CBS Secondary School Kilkenny mission statement. In particular, the school strives to provide a safe, caring, learning environment for its students.
- c) CBS Secondary School Kilkenny is committed to addressing the needs of the whole school community in relation to substance abuse education. The school community, Board of Management (BOM), staff, parents/guardians and students share responsibility to ensure the acceptance and implementation of this Substance Abuse Policy.
- d) School management asserts its right to protect and promote its ethos by promoting high standards of behaviour and by strongly prohibiting the possession, use or sale of the aforementioned substances.
- e) School management recognises and accepts the seriousness of various research findings regarding the problems associated with substance abuse.
- f) This policy has been reviewed in accordance with the CBS Kilkenny Child Safeguarding Statement and in line with the *Children First Act 2015* and the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*.
- g) While reviewing this policy, due consideration has been given to all aspects of the wellbeing of students at CBS Kilkenny and particularly to the Wellbeing School Improvement Plan (May 2018).
- h) General Data Protection Regulation came into force in May 2018, and this policy has been reviewed in accordance with best practice as detailed in this legislation.

## 2. School Position on Substance Abuse

a) CBS Secondary School Kilkenny prohibits the possession, use or supply of the aforementioned substances (or equivalent) by any student in the school, on school trips or during any school-related activity.

b) Rule 9 of the CBS Kilkenny Code of Behaviour reads as follows:

*The school promotes good and healthy lifestyles. It has a policy on Substance Abuse and both parents/guardians and students must familiarise themselves with it.*

**Smoking, vaping, alcoholic drink or any form of substance abuse is forbidden at all times, in the school, in its environs and during all school activities. Possession and/or use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, alcohol or other substances of abuse is forbidden at all times in the school, in its environs and during all school activities.**

Breaches of these rules by students on banned substances are dealt with in accordance with the CBS Kilkenny Code of Behaviour.

c) In the case of drugs for legitimate medical use, the parents/guardians of students taking prescribed medication are required to inform the school accordingly.

### **3. Programs for Education on Substance Abuse**

- a) CBS Secondary School Kilkenny is very committed to educating young people about the effects of substance abuse, and will provide (within the resources available) appropriate education programs for all of its students. These programs will be age-appropriate and will be incorporated into existing programmes already being taught in the school. These programmes are Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE), Religious Education (RE), Physical Education (PE), Civic, Social & Political Education (CSPE) and Wellbeing (Turas).
  
- b) CBS Secondary School Kilkenny, in conjunction with the Department of Education & Skills will facilitate appropriate training for staff relating to banned substances.
  
- c) Teachers are encouraged and facilitated to avail of appropriate in-service training.
  
- d) Where appropriate, the Parents Council provides opportunities for parents/guardians to attend information sessions in relation to substance abuse.
  
- e) Where practical, parents/guardians are expected to support the school in its mission regarding substance abuse by: (a) informing and educating their children regarding substance abuse and (b) assisting and co-operating fully with school staff and management should an incident of abuse arise.
  
- f) CBS Kilkenny counselling service is available to all students on the basis of the school's referral system.

#### **4. Management of Incidents of Substance Abuse**

- a) In the event of an incident of substance abuse, the school will seek to strike a balance between the welfare of the student(s) involved and the welfare of the school community as a whole and the reputation of the school. CBS Secondary School Kilkenny will take all appropriate and necessary steps to fully investigate and assess any abuse incident including the various steps set out in this section, and will take as much time as may be deemed necessary and appropriate to the completion of any such investigation; the school is cognisant of the Misuse of Drugs Acts, 1977, 1984 and the Amendment of 2016.
- b) In situations where it is apparent that a student is under the influence of a substance covered by this policy, the student will be removed from class and will meet with the Principal, Deputy Principals, Guidance Counsellor, Year Head or relevant teacher. Parents/Guardians will be contacted as a matter of urgency and may be required to come to the school and to take their son home. Where deemed necessary, the school will seek medical attention for the student.
- c) The school reserves the right to suspend or temporarily remove from the school any student involved in a suspected abuse incident pending a further and complete investigation of the incident.
- d) All incidents and investigations of incidents of substance abuse will be recorded and stored in line with GDPR.
- e) CBS Kilkenny will take all steps required to investigate fully and to assess any incident of substance abuse. Parents/Guardians will be informed of such investigations and will be invited to come to the school, where necessary.
- f) Where appropriate, An Garda Siochána will be informed.
- g) Unless otherwise instructed by An Garda Siochána, the school will take possession of any prohibited substances and paraphernalia and will record and retain all such items, pending completion of the investigation.
- h) CBS Secondary School Kilkenny, at its discretion, will liaise with any appropriate outside authority and seek advice or assistance as it deems appropriate in relation to its investigation of an incident.

- i) In all cases, pastoral and/or school counselling support will be offered to students involved if deemed appropriate.
  
- j) Teachers and other staff cannot offer total confidentiality to a young person who discloses knowledge of substance abuse by himself or other students in the school. Information received will be disclosed only on a “need to know” basis. The school, the principal/deputy principals, and all persons concerned with the incident shall respect the principle of confidentiality and shall, in as far as possible and in line with the Child Safeguarding Policy, jointly and individually endeavour to uphold that confidentiality.
  
- k) Where necessary, the principal will address media queries.
  
- l) Students who are involved in substance abuse incidents will be subject to CBS Kilkenny Code of Behaviour. Disciplinary measures involving suspension and expulsions will be taken in accordance with the school’s policy on suspensions & expulsions.
  
- m) Where expulsion arises, the Board of Management will notify the Education Welfare Officer and will otherwise comply with the provisions of the Education Welfare Act, 2000 subject to “***and without prejudice to the right of a Board of Management to take such other reasonable measures as it considers appropriate to ensure that good order and discipline are maintained in the School and the safety of students is secured***” in accordance with the law and the provisions of Section 24(5) of the aforementioned Act. Such an expulsion is subject to appeal under the provisions of Sections 28 & 29 of the Education Act 1998.

In the case of a student being allowed to return to school following a substance abuse incident, the school reserves its right to impose conditions as deemed appropriate and necessary.

## **5. Monitoring, reviewing and evaluating**

Senior school management will ensure that this policy is under regular review and evaluation. School authorities will review this policy on a regular basis in order to stay up to date with current best practice and with relevant legislation in this area.

### **Approval**

This policy has been approved by CBS Kilkenny Board of Management.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Board of Management