

# **KILRUSH COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

## **SCHOOL POLICY**

### **STATEMENT ON DRUGS**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*In an Irish, European and Christian context, Kilrush Community School endeavours to create a community atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect within which students learn, mature and develop their respective talents.*

#### **Kilrush Community School Aims:**

1. To develop a challenging learning environment which promotes high expectations of individual performance from students and enables staff to professionally discharge their duties.
2. To give students access to a broad and balanced curriculum within a caring, co-operative community.
3. To ensure that all staff and students enjoy equality of esteem and opportunity.
4. To foster among students an awareness of their environment, heritage and health enabling them to play a positive role within the local and wider community.
5. To equip students with a strong sense of self-esteem, self-discipline and self-motivation.
6. To foster universal values of compassion, integrity, honesty and respect.

# KILRUSH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## SCHOOL POLICY STATEMENT ON DRUGS

### Background

In Ireland, at the start of the third Millennium, cognisance must be taken of the Emergence of a drugs' culture which would appear to be developing amongst a small minority of our youth. Experience elsewhere shows that the "pop" or "rave" culture, media glamorisation, fashion and peer pressure all impact on young people to influence some to experiment at an increasingly young age with drugs, whether these be tobacco, alcohol, inhalants, prescribed or illegal drugs. Rural Ireland, once thought perhaps exempt from such a problem, is no longer immune. We must recognise that any organisation or institution where large numbers of young people congregate could have within its ranks teenagers ready to experiment with drugs.

### Aim

Kilrush Community School aims to maintain a drugs free environment where the school community is educated and aware of the signs and dangers of drug use in order to prevent its encroachment.

The school recognises:

- (a) the difference between the abuse of tobacco, alcohol, inhalants, prescribed\*# and illegal drugs.
- (b) that it is not only the school's function or any one individual's role to deal with this issue.
- (c) the role that teaching and non-teaching staff, parents, students and the wider community have to play when considering this issue.
- (d) that prevention is far better than cure in this instance.

**Staff Members** - Be aware of the signs and dangers of drug abuse. (In-service education has a role here). Report serious suspicion or evidence of drug abuse to the Principal or Deputy Principal.

**Parents** - Be aware of the signs and dangers of drug abuse. Discuss the issue of drug abuse at home. Contact the Relevant expertise if necessary. (The school has a role in the education of parents here).

**Students** - Educate pupils to the dangers of drug abuse. Encourage them to report to a member of staff if they Know an individual is involved with drugs.

**Wider Community** - Acknowledge that, "It could be my child".

**Action**

Where and when the issue of drug abuse emerges the following guidelines/procedures should be followed:

- (a) Suspicion of drug abuse – Report to Principal or Deputy Principal.
- (b) Use of alcohol, inhalants, prescribed\*# or illegal drugs outside of school – Report to Principal or Deputy Principal who may inform parents, recommend counselling or contact the Gardai.
- (c) Use of drugs on school premises:-
  - Tobacco - Refer to school’s Smoke-Free Policy. Smoking in school premises is prohibited by law. A student found smoking or with tobacco products will be advised of the dangers of smoking and their parents informed. A student found to be smoking repeatedly may be dealt with through the School Code of Behaviour.
  - Alcohol - Probable suspension.
  - Prescribed Drugs - Parents informed, possible suspension/dismissal, counselling may be required.
- (d) Inhalants - Parents informed, student counselling may be required, possible suspension.
- (e) The possession of, use of, sharing or dealing in illegal drugs will result in suspension and probable dismissal from school.

\* **Use of prescribed drugs by one individual for whom they are not prescribed.**

# **Parents of a student who needs to take prescribed drugs during the school day must inform the School Authorities.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sr. K. Conway,  
Chairperson – B.o.M.**

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