



Coláiste Iognáid S.J.

Bóthar na Mara, Gaillimh

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Alcohol & Illegal Drugs Policy

LINK TO MISSION STATEMENT

Coláiste Iognáid aspires to be a community wherein mutual respect, cooperation and justice are integral features. The school's ethos seeks to develop each student's religious, moral, social, intellectual and cultural sensibilities. Our Ignatian Vision guides procedures and processes within the school. Cura personalis is one of the defining features of the ethos of the college where each student will be cared for. The unique character of each person is acknowledged and valued. One of the central aspirations of the college is that we should be "people for others". All our policies are informed and guided by these principles.

INTRODUCTION BY THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management recognises the importance of an Alcohol and Drug free school and is fully committed to following the key principles of best practice in implementing this policy.

In developing this policy, we have given serious consideration to the democratic and child-centred principles of the school. The establishment of a sound learning environment at school and classroom level is critical to effective teaching and learning.

This policy document sets out procedures to be applied to support students and staff in the school.

RATIONALE

Coláiste Iognáid adopts a no alcohol and zero tolerance drugs policy in relation to all college events and activities.

A non-exhaustive list of college organized activities is included below. Coláiste Iognáid calls upon students to support each other in always staying sober and drug-free so that their physical, intellectual, spiritual and psychological capabilities may be optimised. Senior Students are reminded of their responsibility in setting example and showing leadership and thereby contributing, positively, to the formation of Junior students in this regard.

GUIDELINES

Violations of the school's no alcohol and no illegal drugs policy will be deemed a serious offence and will be dealt with accordingly. A range of appropriate sanctions, up to and including permanent exclusion, should circumstances so warrant, may be imposed.

These procedures will be followed if a violation occurs whilst a student is abroad on a College organised activity. Local Law Enforcement will substitute for An Gardaí Síochána.

Activities

The No Alcohol and Illegal Drugs Policy of Coláiste Iognáid applies during school time and in respect of, but is not limited to, the following College activities;

- Class Retreats
- Kairos Retreat
- Sporting Occasions
- Overnight Trips
- Sixth Year Graduation Ceremonies
- Transition Year Exchange Trips, including, those where students are hosted by families and are under the supervision of their host families
- Organised tours
- Sixth Year Sleep-out
- Class outings (Day Trips)

If in doubt as to whether an activity is a College-organised event, then clarification should be sought and obtained from the Principal, Deputy Principal, Chaplain, or TY Coordinator.

Assessing and Managing Substance Use Incident

In the event of a suspected incidence of drug abuse the College will seek to strike a balance between the welfare of the student or students involved and the welfare of the school community as a whole as well as the reputation of the school. All staff members need to be aware of the signs of drug use and be alert for changes in behaviour. Rumour must not be taken as evidence of drug use. The following procedure will be adopted in managing and investigating an abuse incident;

- In cases where there is no immediate danger to the student (s), it is important to take time to assess and investigate the situation fully before responding.
- Where it is apparent that there is immediate danger to students or the college community, the school reserves the right to suspend or remove temporarily from the school any student involved in a suspected abuse incident pending a further and complete investigation of the incident.
- Pupils found with cigarettes (including e-cigarettes) will have them confiscated. A letter will be issued to parents.
- The college will take all the steps required to fully investigate and assess any substance abuse incident and will take whatever action it deems necessary to do this. It may be necessary to search lockers (which remain College property at all times) or to ask individuals to empty out the contents of their pockets or school bags. Lockers should only be searched

when two members of staff are present. Searching a person is, however, beyond the remit of College personnel.

- Any member of staff will, immediately upon becoming aware of an alleged abuse incident, proceed as follows:
 - Take immediate possession of any banned or prohibited substances and drug paraphernalia associated with an abuse incident.
 - Place all confiscated items in the bag / envelope provided for the purpose.
 - Sign and date the flap of the bag / envelope
 - The College will hand these items over to the Gardaí as soon as possible.
 - In the event of the incident taking place abroad the staff member will dispose of any banned or prohibited substances and drug paraphernalia associated with an abuse incident having carefully recorded the contents. All concerned will be invited to witness the record.
- In the event of an incident, the College will seek detailed statements from all persons involved in, concerned with, or having knowledge of the incident and will record these statements.
- The details relating to the incident will be recorded by the member of staff investigating it and acted upon by the Principal/Deputy Principal. The document will be retained confidentially.
- The College will maintain a written record of all stages of the investigation of any incident, including records referred to in the above steps, communications with other people or agencies involved or concerned with the matters under investigation, the investigation outcome, decisions, any penalties or disciplinary measures imposed following an investigation, and the management and outcome of any appeal that may arise following an investigation.

Sanctions for Alcohol and Illegal Substance Use

The College can, at its sole discretion, postpone the issue of sanctions to take account of mitigating circumstances or representations that it considers should be taken into account. The College asserts the right to exercise appropriate discretion.

- Consuming alcohol during school time or on school sanctioned events/trips is strictly prohibited for all students (Including those over 18 years of age). Sanction for this offence is a minimum of 3-days suspension and a referral to the Board of Management.
- On Health and Safety grounds the Board of Management reserves the right to suspend a student indefinitely pending receipt of a clean urine sample where the College has concerns regarding the immediate care of the student or where Illegal drugs have been found on his/her person.
- In relation to a verified and investigated incident, the Board of Management may implement disciplinary actions or sanctions, including but not limited to: an oral warning, a written warning, suspension, referral to the Juvenile Liaison Officer, other sanctions short of expulsion, and expulsion.
- In the case of suspension, there may be conditions relating to the readmission of the student. This may include an undertaking that the student involved will attend appropriate counselling e.g. drugs counselling and the continuous presentation of clean urine samples to the Board of Management.

- Involvement in an external drug prevention programme and drugs testing can be required.
- The College will also ensure that pastoral supports (Chaplain, Year Head, Guidance Counsellor, SPHE teachers etc.) are offered to the student / students affected by an incident of Illegal substance use.
- The Principal/Deputy Principal or designated teacher will monitor individuals suspected of taking these substances
- At all times the DES Child Protection Guidelines will be adhered to.
- In the case of students involved in the sale or supply of illegal drugs this issued will be deemed as an immediate Health & Safety risk. In such situations the student will be referred to the Board of Management who will determine the appropriate sanction. In line with the NEWB guidelines the sanction could include permanent exclusion.
- A single incident of serious misconduct may be grounds for suspension/permanent exclusion.

POLICY PUBLICATION


This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on dd/mm/yyyy

REVIEW

This policy has been made available to school personnel. The policy is published on the school website and is available to parents and pupils on hardcopy upon request. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.

RATIFICATION

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year. Written notification that the review has been completed will be made available to school personnel, published on the school website and will otherwise be readily accessible to parents and pupils on request. A record of the review and its outcome will be made available, if requested, to the patron and the Department.

Signed: 
Principal

Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 