**DE LA SALLE COLLEGE MACROOM**

**This is our School's Policy on:**

**ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG USE**

**Introduction**

**THE SCHOOL POSITION**

De La Salle College is committed to addressing the needs of the whole school. It is vital that parents/guardians actively work with the school to implement this policy to ensure health and safety. In this policy "Drug" means any substance which changes the way the body functions, mentally, physically or emotionally. The School recognises that drugs both legal and illegal are available in the local community and that the School, as part of that community, has an important role in terms of education, prevention, support and the handling of drug related incidents.

**THE SCHOOL ETHOS**

As stated in the School's mission statement, De La Salle is committed to enabling students to fulfil their academic, intellectual, moral, spiritual, social, cultural and physical potential in a Christian environment. In our school this vision will be achieved by mutual respect and co-operation amongst all partners in an open, safe and caring atmosphere. The school is also committed to fostering the development of personal responsibility. This is the ethos which guides the School Health Policy.

**TOBACCO (Including E-Cigarettes)**

* The school is a smoke/tobacco product free zone (including e-cigarettes /vaping).
* Students are not permitted to smoke or vape on the school premises or in the proximity of the school.
* Staff should not permit students to smoke on any school trips.
* Students found smoking on the school premises will be reported to the Class Teacher / year head and appropriate sanctions will be administered.
* Parents will be made aware of students caught using any tobacco produces on school grounds / during school time.
* Repeated and blatant offending will result in the instigation of school disciplinary procedures.

**ALCOHOL**

* The school is an alcohol free zone.
* Staff should not permit students to consume alcohol on any school related trips.
* Students found to be under the influence of alcohol on the school premises, will result in their parents/guardians being informed and asked to take the student home.
* Support will be given and counselling where appropriate will be provided.

**ILLICIT DRUGS AND SOLVENTS**

* The School does not accept the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs in the school, or in any school related activities.
* The School does not accept the misuse of solvent based substances. Students may have prescribed or "over the counter" medicines for legitimate personal use only.
* Illicit drugs found on the school premises will be locked away and the Gardaí contacted to dispose of them. School Management will investigate into the origin of the drugs found. Where the school suspects trafficking of drugs an investigation will be carried out by the Principal/Deputy Principal. Parents/Guardians of any student involved will be informed.
* The School Management will expect parents/guardians to inform the principal if they suspect their child of drug taking.

**STUDENTS WITH MEDICAL PROBLEMS**

* Students who have in their possession and take medical drugs in school long term must inform the school.
* The School must be informed if a student has a medical condition and relevant teachers, e.g. P.E. teacher must be informed also.

**SCHOOL LABORATORIES**

* Chemicals in school laboratories will be held under lock and key. Students will handle and use such substances only under their teacher's supervision.

The policy is focused in four key areas:

1. Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Education Programmes.
2. Managing Drug Related Incidents.
3. Training and Staff Development.
4. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation.

**1. Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Education Programmes.**

* To increase the self esteem and confidence of our students.
* To equip our students with personal and social skills.
* To enable our students to make informed, healthy and responsible decisions.
* To provide clear and age appropriate information on drugs.
* To minimise the harm caused by drug abuse by offering supportive interventions.

These aims will be achieved by:

1. Outside speakers are used where appropriate to reinforce the work done in class.
2. Student Drug Education will be achieved through:
* SPHE Programme
* Outside speakers where appropriate.

**2. Managing  Drug Related Incidents**

We acknowledge that in all situations involving drugs, there needs to be a balance between the needs of the student, the needs of the school community, the reputation of the school and legal considerations. The principles of natural justice and due process will apply in all incidents.

**Disciplinary Procedures**

Drug incidents are complex and in situations where the school rules regarding drugs are broken, sanctions and punishments will be implemented depending on the nature of the offence. These will be consistent with school rules (see the code of conduct).

**4. Monitoring the Policy, Review and Evaluation**

The Policy will be monitored regularly to ensure that it is of practical benefit to the School. The result will be recorded and made available to the Principal.

The areas of:

* Drug Education Programmes
* Managing Drug Related Incidents
* Parent, Staff and Management Training

will be reviewed.

**Ratified**

25/01/24

**Evaluation**

Policy will be reviewed by 2027



Chairperson of Board of Management



Principal