

# Our Lady of Lourdes School Ballymoney

Caring, Sharing, Learning together to meet the future

## Drugs Policy



**The aim in writing this document is:**

- i. To provide a framework for the development of drugs education in the school in order to minimise the risk of drug abuse.**
- ii. To ensure consistency of approach from Governors, Senior Leadership Team and Staff**
- iii. To make a clear statement for other interested parties, especially parents, about the approach of the school to drug education.**

## **I Our Lady of Lourdes School's attitude to drugs.**

- a) The school defines the term 'drug' as:

A drug is any chemical substance which alters the way the body functions and/or an individual's emotional state and/or an individual's behaviour

- b) The school recognises the need to distinguish between prescribed (legal), illegal and illicit drugs.

Illegal drugs alludes to controlled drugs whose distribution is forbidden or limited to medical channels by the misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and includes Cannabis, Ecstasy, LSD, Speed, Processed Magic Mushrooms and Heroin.

Illicit drugs include all the controlled drugs, Morphine, Librium, Valium and drugs with Codeine present, plus legal substances which are being misused, solvents, magic mushrooms, alcohol and cigarettes.

Prescribes drugs are those which are necessary to maintain life. We do emphasise distinction between pupils who are using prescribed drugs and illicit drug users (it is school policy to maintain an up-to -date register of pupils whose medical condition warrants the use of drugs).

- c) How the school views drug abuse.

Our Lady of Lourdes School will not tolerate the misuse of any of the above named groups of drugs. The over – riding aim is to develop skills that would enable young people to live a drug free lifestyle in a drug orientated society.

## 2 Rationale for Drugs Education in the Curriculum.

- a) It is now statutory and is part of Health Education guidance.
- b) It is our belief that in the current culture it is realistic to accept that some of our pupils may take drugs at some stage, our aim is to minimise the number of pupils who do and to postpone the onset of those who will, also work together with other agencies and parents to achieve this.

## 3 An overview of Drugs Education.

- a) The place of Drugs Education in a Health Education Programme

The Cross – Curricular Theme of Health Education now includes Drugs Education. Drugs Education cannot be taught in isolation from Health Education. Basic broad skills such as making informed choices are essential in both. Health Education encourages a positive healthy lifestyle as does Drugs Education.

- b) Much of the drugs education will be taught through our PSHE programme but certain aspects will be considered in RE, Science, English, etc. However on occasions we may use outside speakers to complement our drugs Education Programme (Refer to visitor’s checklist in Appendix).
- c) Methods and Organisation.

## 4 The procedures for dealing with a drug related incident.

Refer to flowcharts in Appendix

## 5 Outline of the Discipline Measures.

- a) Our Lady of Lourdes School can recommend a pupil for expulsion in line with the relevant school policy.
- b) Schools can suspend “while an investigation is being carried out” – 5 days, plus an extension in exceptional circumstances, but not more than 45 days in one school year.
- c) Disciplinary measures will vary according to the gravity of the offence.
- d) Parents will be involved from the outset.

## 6 The management of solvents in school.

Care should be taken by teachers when using, for example, glues and felt tips to ensure that anything that can be inhaled does not get into the wrong hands.

These materials should be carefully supervised during lessons and stored securely.

COSHH (Control of Substances and Harmful Hazards) covers the safe use of all chemicals as does the Health and Safety Manual which is available on school premises for all members of staff to refer to.



## The management of drug related incidents

### WHERE POSSIBLE CONDUCT A SEARCH

A member of staff may search a pupil's desk or locker if he/she has reasonable cause to believe it contains unlawful items, including controlled drugs. Such a search should be made in the presence of the pupil and another, adult witness. Where pupils are suspected of concealing controlled drugs on their persons or in their personal belongings, every effort should be made first to secure the voluntary production of any unlawful substances, for example, by asking them to turn out their pockets or schoolbags. If the pupil refuses, the police should be called in to deal with the situation. Parents will be informed. Physical searches should never be made by a member of staff. A search of pupil's personal belongings, including schoolbag, coat or other items hanging in the school cloakroom, should be made only with the pupil's consent, and in his or her presence and that of another adult witness.

### ATTEMPT TO DETAIN THE PUPIL

The school staff may detain a pupil, using reasonable means, until the police arrive, where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that an arrestable offence is being committed. Duress, however, should never be used.

Refer to Appendix 3, 4 and 5.

### AIM OF DRUGS EDUCATION AT OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL

- To help pupils acquire skills in managing the pressures of the youth culture they live in.
- To help pupils acquire decisions making skills.
- To help pupils stand against the 'crowd' if necessary.
- To help young people distinguish between useful and harmful drugs.
- To develop the skills a young person needs to refuse a 'drug' offer.
- To minimise the chances of any pupils using drugs.
- To develop in our pupils a sense of self-worth.
- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health.

## Appendix 1

### USE OF VISITORS' CHECKLIST

**Before inviting a visitor to the school, the following checklist should be applied:**

1. Is the visitor the best choice to make for the particular input being sought?
2. Does the visitor share the school's values?
3. Does the visitor share the school's approach to drugs education?
4. What prior experience of teaching/Drugs Education does the visitor have?
5. Can the visitor communicate as a level appropriate to the emotional and intellectual development of the pupils?
6. Do you have first-hand knowledge of the type of presentational which the visitor gives?
7. Is the visitor agreeable to work with a whole class at a time?
8. Is there a charge for the visit?
9. Has the visitor been subject to vetting under DE Circular 1999/10?

## Appendix 2

### USE OF VISITORS' CHECKLIST

**Having invited the speaker:**

1. Make sure that the visitor is made aware of the number, age, ability and background of the children in the class.
2. Decide together on the exact topic for the lesson.
3. Make sure that the visitor is given clear instructions as to the aims, content, level and timing of the lesson.
4. Inform the visitor of any sensitive issues which may need to be avoided during the lesson.

5. Check what resources will be required for the visit.
6. Ensure that the member of staff stays with their class during the presentation.
7. Ensure that appropriate follow-up work is carried out so that the visit is not left in a vacuum.

## THE MANAGEMENT OF PRESCRIBED MEDICINES IN SCHOOL

### **Advice and Information from Parents**

- a) One-off medication e.g. antibiotic/pain relief  
Parents must provide name of drug, amount, timing and these details should be given in writing.
- b) On-going medication e.g. diabetic, epileptic, asthmatic.  
Self-medication should be the responsibility of the child.  
Schools should not accept responsibility for non-prescribed medicines  
Individual Care Plan e.g. anaphylaxis (peanut allergy, bee sting etc.).  
School has a special circumstance register. Each pupil on this register will have a card with details of condition/illness, type, amount and timing of medication. This will provide the necessary information and ensure that should a pupil become unwell in school, there is a very definite procedure so that the school is always following parent's instructions. This information would be kept in the main office and accessible to relevant staff.

### **Storage of Medicines**

1. Medication is kept in the main office– except that which needs to be kept in fridge.
2. Inhalers – each pupil should be responsible for own inhaler. It would be advisable for those pupils to have an extra inhaler which could be kept in main office for emergency use when a pupil has forgotten to carry inhaler to school.
3. Parents are responsible for keeping information and medication up to date. Out of date medicine should be disposed of.

### **Emergency Permission**

Asthmatic attack – Pupil should have specific asthma card with instructions on medication and when to call parents/doctor.

### **Persons in school responsible for First Aid**

- i. An appointed person – Mr S Stewart – Senior Leadership Team
- ii. Qualified First Aiders – Mr B Kirgan, Miss E Gillan
- iii. All Classroom assistants – One day basic course in First Aid

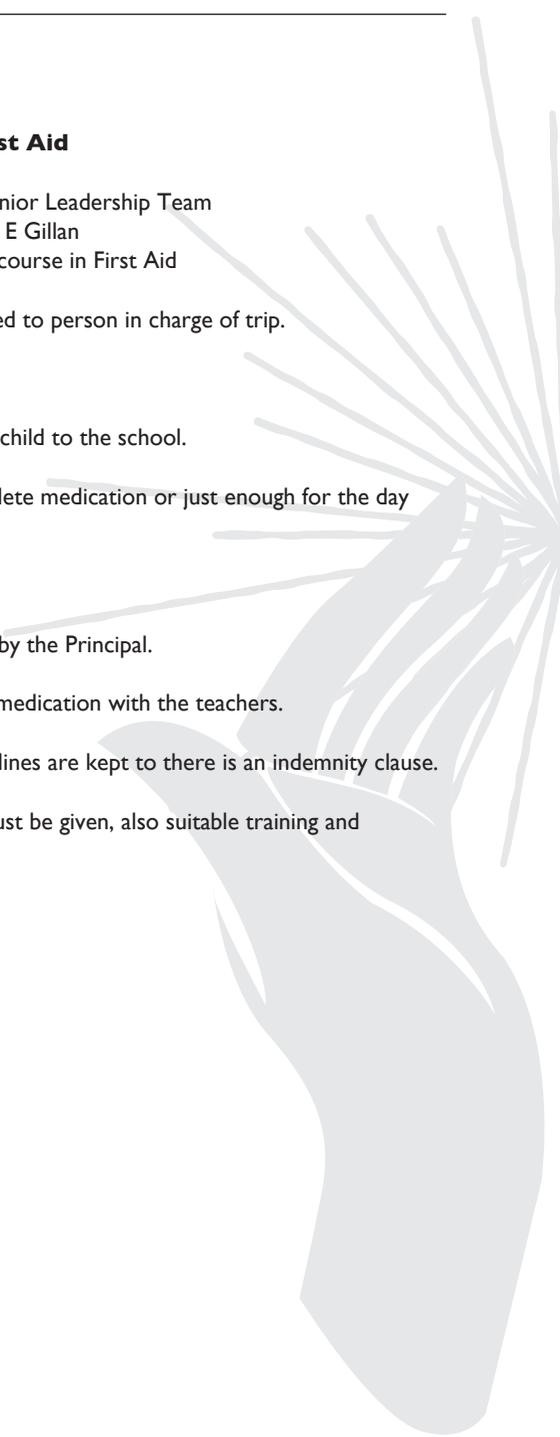
**School Trips** – Medication should be handed to person in charge of trip.

### **Advice to parents**

- Parents must give written information on child to the school.
- Must decide whether they send the complete medication or just enough for the day and state in a letter to Mr Stewart.

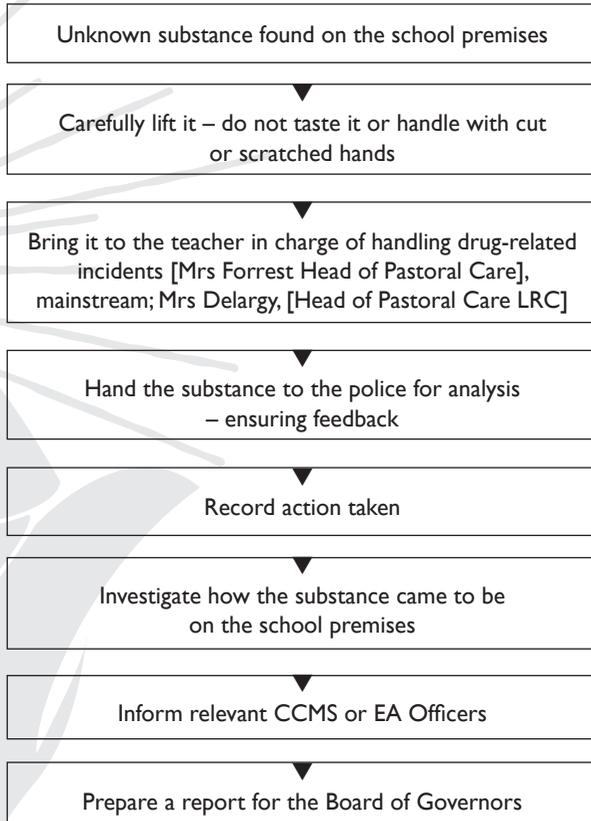
### **Teachers' Position**

- Giving of medication should be approved by the Principal.
- The Principal should discuss the giving of medication with the teachers.
- Teachers have the right to refuse. If guidelines are kept to there is an indemnity clause.
- If a teacher does agree full information must be given, also suitable training and support.



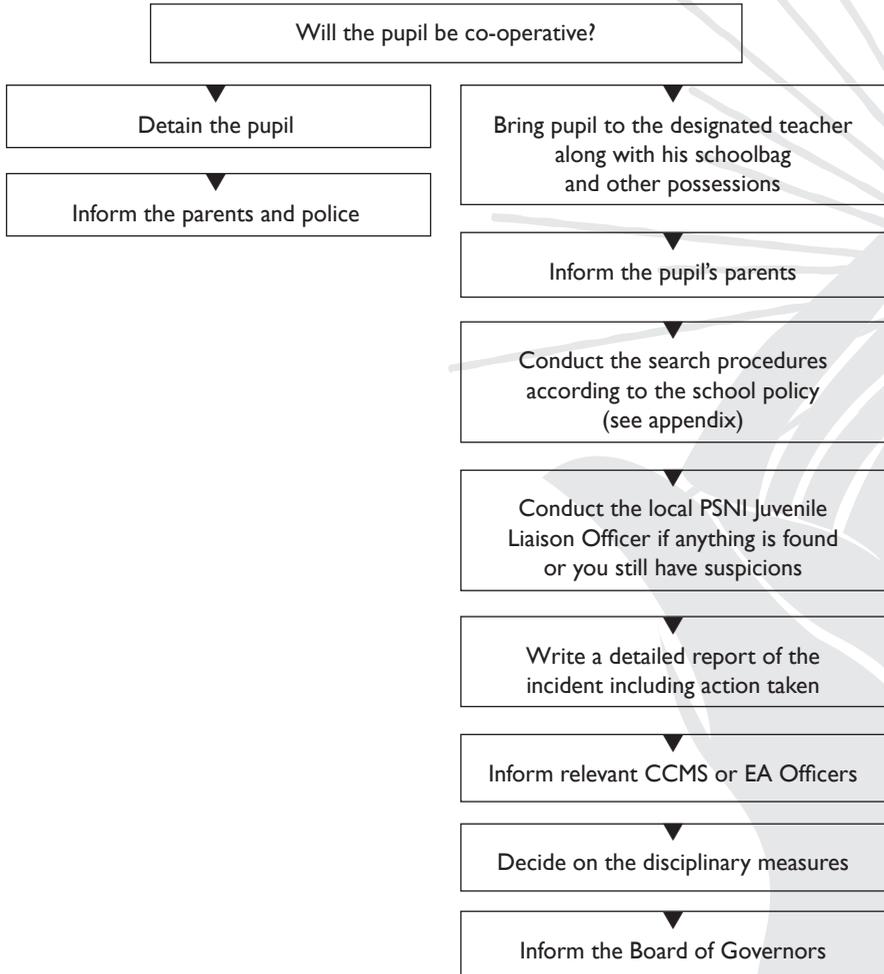
## Appendix 3

### FINDING A SUBSTANCE ON THE SCHOOL PREMISES



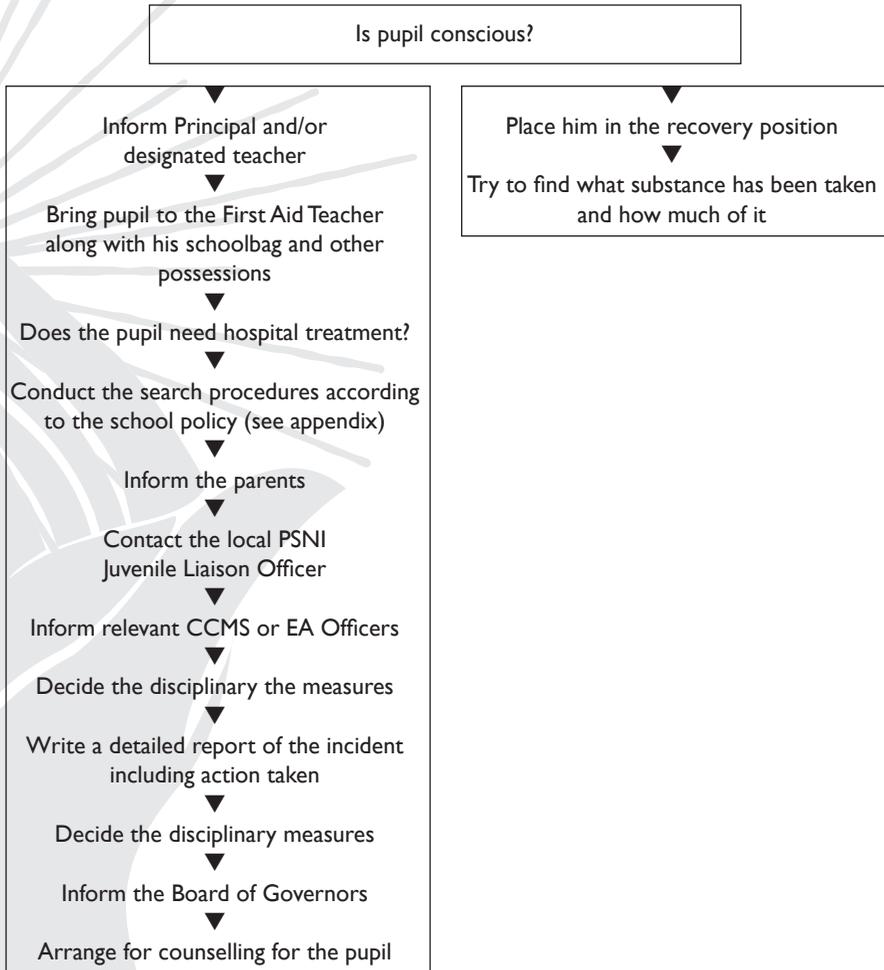
## Appendix 4

### PUPIL SUSPECTED OF POSSESSING/DISTRIBUTING AN ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE



## Appendix 5

### PUPIL SUSPECTED OF TAKEN DRUGS IN SCHOOL





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## School Poem

You're **unique** and **one of a kind**  
Your life can be what you want  
Take the days just one at a time  
**Count your blessings** not your troubles  
You'll make it through whatever comes along  
Don't put limits on yourself  
So many dreams are waiting to be realised  
Decisions are too important to leave to chance  
Reach for your **peak**, your **goal**, your **prize**  
The longer one carries a problem the heavier it gets  
**Live a life of serenity** not a life of regret  
Remember that a **little love** goes a long way  
A lot goes forever  
Remember that **friendship** is a wise investment  
**Life's treasures are people...**...together  
Realise that it is **never too late**  
Do ordinary things in an extraordinary way  
Have **health and happiness**  
Take the time to **wish upon a star**  
And don't forget – for even a day  
How very **special** you are

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