

County Wexford

Vocational Education Committee

Coiste Oideachais Ghairme Beatha. Cho. Loch gCarman

COLLEGE DRUGS POLICY -2006

Vocational College, Education & Training Centres and O.E.G.

In our college policy the word "drug" refers to any chemical substance(s) which alters the way the body functions and/or the pupil's behaviour. "Drugs" will include illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy etc. and legally available drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents.

All young people are living in a drug using society. Students, irrespective of social background or educational attainment, are at risk.

Unprescribed drugs, including tobacco and alcohol, have no place in the healthy environment that colleges strive to achieve so that the student population do not put themselves at risk of suffering damage or causing social harm.

The college policy is one of primary prevention as recommended by the European Commission in 1994.

If an incident does occur the response will be a measured and sensitive approach.

AIMS OF DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME

1. To create a climate where students and those who work with them feel able to talk honestly and openly.
2. To foster the self-esteem of each student. To involve active learning using a wide range of approaches and methodologies.
3. To be part of a wider Health Education Programme, the core of which will be based on the official publication "On my own two feet".
4. To prepare students for present and future experiences, to enable them to make their own informed decisions which will minimize the harm from drug use to the individuals themselves, their families and communities.

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

The process of implementation will involve:

- (a) Staff training in conjunction with South Eastern Health Board and the Department of Education and Science. Establish a support team of teachers including Guidance Counsellor and Remedial Teacher.
- (b) Timetabling within the Social, Personal and Health Education Programme of the college.
- (c) Methodologies: -
 1. Groupwork
 2. Discussion based work
 3. Peer Education
 4. Drama/Role Play
 5. One-to-one support, advice and counselling
 6. External speakers

RESPONSE TO DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS IN COLLEGE

Procedures:

1. Collect the information in relation to the incident.
2. Where the suspicion of drug use [in or out of school], or possession of drugs in college has been confirmed and/or is supported by evidence, the Principal and the Teacher responsible for the Drugs Programme must be informed immediately.
3. The support systems within the college will be used as an initial response to any incident.
4. In the case of any reasonable suspicion of drug use Parent/Guardians will be informed in a confidential manner.
5. Health Board Specialists or other agencies will be contacted for advice and assistance.
6. Where the evidence confirms drug use by a student or students in the college, the student(s) will be suspended until such time as it is confirmed safe to allow him/her to return. The college has the right to insist that such a student must attend drugs counselling and, in extreme cases, produce a medical certificate indicating that he/she is now drug free.
7. Where the misuse of Drugs Act 1977 and 1984 have been broken, the Gardai will be informed.

REVIEW, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF POLICY

- VEC Drug Awareness Sub-Committee
- Parents Council/Board of Management
- South Eastern Health Board

Substance Abuse Directory

A list of sources of information, advice and help for parents and others concerned with substance abuse.

Centre Details	Services Available	Person(s) to Contact
South Eastern Health Board, Head Office, Lacken, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. (056) 51702	All Health Services.	Receptionist
AISEIRI, Roxborough, Wexford. (053) 9141818	Professional 12-Step/Abstinence Based programme, Group Therapy, Individual Counselling, Peer and Relapse Groups. Out-Patient Family Support Programme.	Receptionist
Health Promotion Centre, Dean Street, Kilkenny. (056) 61400	Workshops for community groups on healthy lifestyles, stress management, alcohol and drug issues etc. College based Social & Health Ed. Leaflets, Posters, books and videos on loan or free of charge.	Receptionist
Community Alcohol Treatment Services, St. Luke's General Hospital, Kilkenny. (056) 63677	Addiction Treatment	Bobby O'Brien Catherine Lawlor
Samaritans ó 13 Beau Street, Waterford. Tel: (051) 872114 Freephone: 1850 60 90 90	Listen and advise to seek further help. Will provide information.	Careworker on duty
Childline ó 1800 66 66 66	Reference file on list of services in the area person is from.	Careworker on duty
An Garda Síochána Drugs Unit, Wexford. (053) 91 65200	The function of An Garda Síochána is to detect and prosecute drug offences. However, we are also available to give help and advise to parents and schools in the strictest confidence if they are concerned about drugs in any way.	Detective Sean O'Leary
Local Garda Stations		See Telephone Directory

COUNTY WEXFORD VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chief Executive Officer: Clare McMahon