



NEWSTART EDUCATION CENTRE

Drugs Policy

The ethos of Newstart is to encourage young people to develop positive attitudes and behaviour towards themselves and others. We believe we have a duty to educate young people to make informed health choices. Drugs Education will be delivered within the curriculum as part of PSHE. The main objective of this programme is to equip young people with the necessary information and skills to make informed positive decisions, and to enable young people to develop the skills necessary to assert themselves confidently and resist negative pressures and influences.

We recognize that drug misuse is a whole-community issue and that we must play a part in the education of our young people.

We are committed to working with other groups / agencies in order to avail of all possible expertise available to provide appropriate support and assistance for those young people affected by drug-related issues.

Every member of staff, both teaching and non-teaching, is familiar with our procedures, and know whom to contact and what to do when a young person is suspected either of being in possession of drugs or being under the influence of drugs, including alcohol. Our procedures are brought to the attention of new members of staff as part of their induction training.

Every member of staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are provided with relevant training and support to enable them to deal effectively and confidently with incidents of suspected drug misuse, and to ensure that the procedures are sensitively and consistently applied in all situations.

In every case, however, where action needs to be taken to protect the young person or young people involved, the need to avoid unnecessary physical risk to the member(s) of staff concerned must also be taken into account: although every effort should be made to ensure the safety of the young people in their charge, staff should also have a proper regard to their own safety.

We are committed to tackling drug misuse among young people, and any instances of possession, use or supply of illegal drugs on school premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness.

Where a young person has been identified as having misused drugs/abusive substances or being in possession of same, the following procedure will be followed:

1. All steps necessary to ensure the health and safety of the pupil will be taken.
2. The substance will be confiscated and identified.*
3. The Centre Director will be informed.
4. All other young people suspected of being involved in the incident will be interviewed.
5. Parents/Guardians will be informed as soon as possible.
6. When appropriate, support will be sought from outside agencies.
7. Disciplinary action will be taken.

**Discovery of Substances*

Workers discovering substances which are suspected to be harmful, illegal or deserving of investigation should, if possible, remove the substance from the location in which it is found in the presence of a witness or witnesses. If this is not possible, do not leave the substance in its location whilst you enlist the support of another worker or young person as a witness. REMOVE ON SIGHT.

When receiving or retrieving substances from a young person, do so, if possible, in the presence of a witness. In the absence of a witness, however, do not delay in receiving suspicious substances or, within the bounds of discretion, removing a suspicious substance from a young person's possession.

The Following Guidelines Should Be Observed At All Times

1. Remove the substance and record the place, date, time and circumstance when the substance came into your possession.
2. Do not investigate the nature of the substance in your possession, but do record its approximate size and appearance.
3. When possible have the above recordings countersigned by a witness.
4. Take the substance immediately to the Centre Director / worker in charge. Do not retain the substance on your person or in a place for safekeeping for action at a later time: to do so may place you at risk.

5. In the presence of the Centre Director / worker in charge, place the substance in an envelope or some suitable container which can be sealed. The Centre Director / worker in charge, yourself, and, when possible, the witness, should sign across the seal and date the package. An official report should be completed using your recorded notes of the date, time, location and circumstances of the finding.
6. The Centre Director / worker in charge must contact the appropriate external agencies who will facilitate involvement where necessary. Arrangements can be made to have the substance collected and removed from the premises. Until collection the Centre Director / worker in charge is responsible for the safe keeping of the substance.
7. If a young person is directly involved when a substance is found, it is the Centre Director's / worker in charge's responsibility to notify the parents/guardian concerned and, if necessary, to instigate any further action considered appropriate.
8. In the event of the discovery of any equipment associated with substance abuse, especially needles and syringes, young people must not be allowed to handle such items, owing to the risk of infection.

All equipment found must be handled by adults with the utmost care: the Centre Director / worker in charge must ensure that materials are placed in a secure and rigid container to await safe and appropriate disposal.

Adopted by NBD: _____
On behalf of NEC BD

Position: _____

Date: _____