

## NEWTOWN SCHOOL, WATERFORD

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Newtown School has three No Rules:

No Smoking  
No Alcohol  
No Drugs

A student found in breach of a No Rule incurs penalty.

#### **NO SMOKING**

Smoking is not allowed in Newtown School. It is one of three “No” rules that we outline in our “Living and working in the School Community” document.

If students are caught smoking then the following procedures will be applied;

On the 1<sup>st</sup> occasion the student will receive a conduct mark and a letter will be sent home to the parent / guardian to inform them of the incident. It is hoped that the parent / guardian will address the issue with the student in order to prevent a reoccurrence.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> occasion the student will be liable for suspension<sup>1</sup> for 1 day.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> occasion the student will be liable for suspension<sup>1</sup> for 3 days. Each subsequent breach will incur the same penalty. Such incidents will be regarded as a serious breach of conduct which shows complete disregard for school rules and expectations.

On occasion students may be in the presence of smokers but not be actually caught smoking. In these incidents the student found in the presence of smokers will receive the same sanction as a person found to be smoking. It is the responsibility of each student to avoid situations whereby they may be adjudged to be in the presence of students smoking. Students found in possession of cigarettes / tobacco / smoking paraphernalia / e-cigarettes will be subject to the same sanction and procedures as those that apply to students found smoking as outlined in this policy.

This policy covers students while they are in school, involved in any school activity or trip inside or outside school or on the journey to and from school / school activity.

We realise that some students may have particular problems in trying to stop the habit of smoking. In tandem with the above sanctions, which are to discourage smoking, we would also like to help those students who wish to stop smoking. Each student will be offered help and if this is an option they wish to pursue then we will discuss appropriate measures to facilitate it.

## **NO ALCOHOL**

A student found in breach of the No Alcohol rule is liable for suspension.

## **NO DRUGS**

Places at Newtown School are offered to prospective students on the strict understanding that they agree to keep the school drugs-free.

A student who brings drugs into school, uses drugs in school or has drugs to give to someone else breaks that solemn understanding.

Having made a conscious decision that breaks the agreement under which the student accepted his/her place at the school, it follows in honour that the student must give up that place.

## **Suspension**

Suspension is a symbolic way of saying a certain behaviour is incompatible with being a member of the school community. A student who behaves in such a fashion is therefore sent home to consider the position but may return on giving a commitment to behave in accordance with the rules.

At the discretion of the Principal, a student may be placed 'On Report' and be given a Work Detail, in circumstances when a suspension may not be appropriate or implementable.

The No Rules on Substance Abuse are applied as part of School discipline to uphold the law of the land, promote positive attitudes and protect the health and well-being both of individuals and of the community.

Keith Lemon  
Principal

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Reviewed - September 2011  
No Smoking – revised January 2016