



*St. Bricin's College
Railway Road,
Corporation Lands,
Belturbet,
Co. Cavan
H14 P897*

Code of Behaviour Policy 2023-2025

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Introduction

This Code of Behaviour was developed in 2023-24 by St. Bricin's College in accordance with the guidelines *Developing a Code of Behaviour: Guidelines for Schools*, published by the National Educational Welfare Board, 2008 and **in consultation with the members of the Board of Management, staff, students, Student's Council and Parents' Association.**

The Code of Behaviour conforms with legislation as required by Section 23 of the Education Welfare Act (2000). The Code of Behaviour will be available on the school website, in the school office, referenced in the school journal and a copy of the Code is given to new parents at the beginning of the school year prior to enrolment.

This Code is to be read in conjunction with the CMETB Suspensions and Expulsions Policy (Appendix1)

Scope of Policy

This Code applies to all students of St. Bricin's College and relates to all school activities both during and outside of normal school hours. This policy has been reviewed in consultation with all the school partners, including Board of Management, Staff, Parents and Students. This policy is in line with National Educational Welfare guidelines. This policy may also relate to an act which took place or allegedly took place outside the College where such an act, or alleged act, gives rise to a serious concern on the part of school management in relation to the health and safety of students and staff, of the school and to the school's reputation.

This Code of Behaviour applies to all students of St. Bricin's College, including those who are over 18 years of age. Acceptance of and adherence to the Code is a condition of enrolment which persists throughout the student's time at school regardless of their age.

Relationship to school's mission, vision and aims

This policy has been developed in line with the mission of our school which has at its core, "*Ar thóir an Fheabhais*", "*Striving to Improve*". The school strives to provide a safe secure learning environment for the development of our students. Our school Code of Behaviour is based on respect for oneself, for others and our environment, so that a positive and cooperative school atmosphere prevails.

As the state provider of education, the ETB sector defines a 'multidenominational' school in the following way:

In ETB schools, all students are given equal opportunities for enrolment in line with the Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018. Once enrolled, our schools strive to provide all students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum and school life. In all aspects of school life all members of our school communities are treated equitably

regardless of their race, gender, religion/belief, age, family status, civil status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability or socio-economic status.

Our schools provide a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society. They strive to enable every student to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identity or background. Our schools promote a fully inclusive education that recognises the plurality of identities, beliefs and values held by students, parents, and staff. We prepare open-minded, culturally sensitive, and responsible citizens with a strong sense of shared values.

In ETB schools, students of all religions and beliefs are treated equally. The school environment and activities do not privilege any group over another whilst at the same time acknowledging and facilitating students of all religions and beliefs.



Rationale

Many people work together in our school each day and therefore a high level of courtesy and consideration for others is necessary. Behaviour which is disruptive to the quality of teaching and learning cannot be tolerated. Our Code is one that is based on respect for oneself, for others and our environment, so that a positive and cooperative school atmosphere prevails.

Goals/Objectives

The aims of our Code of Behaviour are:

- To create a climate that encourages and reinforces good behaviour
- To create a positive and safe environment for quality teaching and learning

- To build positive relationships of mutual respect and mutual support among students, staff, parents and visitors
- To encourage students to take personal responsibility for their learning and their behaviour
- To have effective procedures in place which will allow for the day to day running of the school and which meet the demands of current legislation
- To help students mature into responsible and participating citizens
- To allow for the appropriate involvement of all members of the school community
- To ensure understanding by the parents, students, staff and management of the Code of Behaviour and the reasons for it
- To outline the strategies to be used to prevent poor behaviour and the ways in which positive behaviour is acknowledged
- To outline the structure of fair, consistent, and agreed sanctions that will be used in response to negative behaviour
- To outline the interventions to be used when a student repeatedly misbehaves

Our policies linked to the Code of Behaviour:

- Administration of Medicines Policy
- Admission Policy,
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Attendance and Punctuality Policy
- Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- CMETB Educational Tours and Field Trips Policy
- Critical Incident Policy
- Extra-Curricular Policy
- Homework Policy
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- Health, Safety and Welfare Policy
- Health Eating/Active Living Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Student Support and Care Policy
- Substance Misuse Policy
- Suspension and Expulsion Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

The school climate and atmosphere are created by the actions and the behaviour of everyone within the school. Our school acknowledges the contribution of all members of the school and wider community. Each member has responsibility for the promotion of good behaviour and a role in strengthening positive relationships of respect and trust. The school expects that students will, always do their best to uphold the Code of Behaviour of

our school. See section 8.4 of the NEWB guidelines for more information on the roles and responsibilities of all adults within the school environment.

Parents/Guardians

The school acknowledges the role of parents/guardians in the development and operation of the Code of Behaviour and expects them to support the Code and encourage their children to uphold it.

Teachers

The quality of relationships between teachers and students can be a powerful influence on behaviour in the school. The Code fosters relationships of trust between students and teachers. The school acknowledges the role of teachers in the development and operation of the Code of Behaviour. The school recognises that a teacher's focus is in the area of teaching and learning, but that they also have a pivotal role to play in behaviour management. That pivotal role forms a core element of this Code. We have teachers assigned to each class and year group with special responsibilities for operating the Code. Subject Teachers, Class Tutors, Year Heads, Additional Needs Team, SNA's, Guidance Counsellors, Learning Support Teachers, Psychological Services, Other Agencies, Pastoral Care team, Discipline Committee, Deputy Principal and Principal all have specific roles to play in upholding the Code.

Other Staff

The school acknowledges the contribution of ancillary staff (SNAs, Secretary, Caretaker, Cleaners etc.) in the day to day running of the school. They too have a part to play in the successful operation of our Code of Behaviour. They have a responsibility to report incidents of misbehaviour and examples of positive behaviour they witness. They also have a role as we all do, to encourage, always acknowledge and reinforce good behaviour practises.

Board of Management

All policies are developed with the authority of the Board of Management and must be approved by its members and formally approved and confirmed by Cavan and Monaghan Education Training Board, before becoming official school policy. While members of the Board of Management are not involved in the day-to-day procedures, they are the body to whom parents and students over 18 may appeal in cases of suspension or expulsion. The adults in the school have a responsibility to model the school's standards of behaviour, in their dealings both with students and with each other, since their example is a powerful source of learning for students. Parents/Guardians are expected to model the standards that the students are asked to respect. The ways in which parents and teachers interact provides students with a model of good working relationships.

School Rules

School Rules apply whenever you are wearing the school uniform, when representing the school or when engaged in any school activity. If a behaviour which occurs outside normal school time impacts negatively, on school life for any of its members, or brings the reputation of the school into disrepute, school rules and sanctions may apply. School rules describe in simple terms how to behave in order to learn well and to develop into mature and responsible adults. They are there to safeguard students' right to learn and teachers' right to teach in a caring, safe and respectful environment. In that instance we expect the following.

1. That you come to school every day and arrive on time
2. That you come to school in full uniform, clean and tidy
3. That you have respect for people and property
4. That you do your best in class and at your homework
5. That you come in properly prepared for your subjects
6. That you act in a respectful manner around the school and travelling to and from the school
7. That you place your device and accessories in the Yondr pouches provided to all students, at the beginning of each day

School Rules Explained

1. That you come to school every day and arrive on time. This means:

- That you are in the school at 8.50 a.m. daily.
- That you attend school every day unless it is unavoidable.
- 'Mitching' is regarded as being a particularly serious transgression of the rules.
- That if you miss school, you send a note through the school app to inform your year head.
- That if you are unavoidably late, you bring a note from your parent/guardian and sign the late book at the school office.
- That if you are sick during the school day and need to leave the school, a parent (or authorised adult) must collect you from the school office regardless of age.
- That if you must leave school during the day, you must get the parental note acknowledged by the Year Head prior to signing out at the office. A parent/guardian is requested to come into the school to sign you out
- That you proceed to all classes without delay and arrive on time
- That you do not go to the toilets/lockers between or during classes without your teachers' permission
- That you behave yourself on your way to and from school
- Enter the school through the designated door
- That you behave on the school buses

Because

- Time and missed lessons are hard to make up
- The school is entitled to an explanation for your absence
- It is expected that a late arrival to school be explained out of courtesy
- Arriving late for class wastes your time, the teacher's time and class time
- Going to the toilets/lockers during or between class disrupts learning
- The school rules apply on your way to and from school

Attendance and Punctuality

Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the daily timetable and to co-operate with its implementation. The efficiency of St. Bricin's College as a learning environment is largely dependent on attendance and punctuality. St. Bricin's College therefore expects the following of each student:

- All students must be present for Tutor Class at **9.00am** having all the necessary books and equipment for all the timetabled classes.
- A record of attendance is carried out each morning and by subject teachers for each class.
- Any student who has been absent from school must have a note sent by their parent/guardian to the school App explaining the reason for their absence.
- If a student is absent for a total of 20 days from school, the Education Welfare Board will be notified by the school.
- A letter will be issued to parents at day 15 to make them aware of this.
- Dental and medical appointments should be made outside school time where possible.
- The school cannot approve of students being withdrawn from school for holidays or non-medical reasons during the school year.
- The safety and welfare of our students is a primary concern. St. Bricin's College considers unauthorised absence from school as a breach of school discipline. Parents/Guardians will be notified, and sanctions will be applied.
- Rewards are issued for students with perfect attendance each term and year.
- Certification at end of year awards is also issued for students with excellent attendance annually.

2. That you come to school in full uniform, clean and tidy. This means:

Note:

The school uniform consists of a:

- Navy V necked jumper with school crest
- Navy trousers
- White shirt
- St. Bricin's College tie
- Black soft with black soled shoes or runners (no logos on shoes)
- St. Bricin's College school jacket (non-uniform jackets are not permitted).

Hoodies cannot be worn under school uniform. School jackets and PE gear can be bought from The Sports Shop in Cavan Town (H12 P2D5). School uniforms can be bought from Uniformity (H12 FA36) and Singer (H12 HV21), both based in Cavan Town.

Pictures of school uniform



The school PE uniform consists of:

- St. Bricin's College half zip
- St. Bricin's College tracksuit bottoms
- St. Bricin's College T-shirt
- Black PE runners.

Hoodies cannot be worn under PE half zip and leggings are not permitted.

Pictures of PE uniform



- You always wear the full school uniform in school except, when otherwise directed by the school.
- PE gear is worn only on days that PE is scheduled for your group.
- You are required to wear the specified sports gear for participation in timetabled P.E. classes, sports training and sports competitions.
- You should have a neat, tidy and natural looking and coloured hairstyle. Hair stencils, hair tattoos, designs/patterns etc. cut or shaved into the hair are not permitted.
- Hats and scarves are to remain in your school bag for the duration of the school day.
- Coats, jackets and sweatshirts are not permitted in class. Exemptions to this rule exist for head gear worn for religious/cultural purposes.
- Smoking and Vaping is forbidden anytime you are wearing the school uniform, when representing the school or when engaged in any school activity.
- No facial piercing/tongue piercings allowed.
- False nails/acrylic nails are not permitted.
- Ear piercings are limited to one discreet small stud pair in the lower lobe of each ear.
- Hoops or plastic substitutes, bars, multiple ear piercings, ear stretchers are not permitted.
- Visible tattoos are not permitted.
- Note: No jewellery/piercings allowed in PE or practical classrooms for Health and Safety reasons.
- Excessive make-up is not allowed

Because

- You should wear your uniform with pride, be dressed suitably for school activities and be a good ambassador when representing the school
- Hair style/colour should be in keeping with a neat dress code and not draw unnecessary attention
- Hats and scarves can be a distraction and a danger in class
- Smoking and vaping is unhealthy. Students should always be good ambassadors of their school
- Facial piercings can be dangerous
- Wearing excessive jewellery can be dangerous in the context of health and safety.
- Make-up can cause discolouration of school uniform and can be damaging to certain skin conditions.

3. That you have respect for people and for property. This means:

- Being helpful and treating other students, all staff and visitors to the school with good manners and respect.
- Respecting the instructions of your teachers and staff.
- Any form of bullying is unacceptable.
- That you should proceed in an orderly fashion by walking on the right-hand side of the corridors and across the school yard.

- That you don't use offensive, abusive or discriminatory language.
- That you use the litter bins in classrooms, in social areas and in the school grounds.
- That you respect the school property and the property of other people.
- Report any accidental damage you may have caused or seen to the main office.
- That you behave outside school, in school uniform, as you would if you were in school

Because

- Like you, other students are entitled to good manners and respect
- Staff are entitled to your respect and co-operation
- Bullying causes fear, hurt, anxiety and misery
- Rough behaviour can lead to accident or injury.
- Offensive or abusive language shows disrespect and can cause hurt
- Keeping the school environment pleasant and litter free is everyone's responsibility
- You would expect the same respect for your property
- The school authorities might have no other way of knowing if damage is caused to property or equipment
- You are a representative of the school and its community, when outside in school uniform

4. That you do your best in class and at your homework. This means:

- That you listen in class to your teachers and SNA's
- That you contribute to class and participate in class to the best of your ability
- That you do not interfere with teaching and learning
- That you don't disturb the class
- That you sit in your assigned seat in an orderly manner
- That you do your homework each night, written and oral and to an acceptable standard. Leaving books at home or in the locker is considered as non-presentation of homework
- That you always have your School Journal with you and you record your homework in it
- That you get your journal signed by your parent/guardian each week
- That if you need to leave your classroom, you must get permission from your teacher with a note of explanation in your school journal
- If you are required by another teacher, that teacher must note this in your School Journal, and you must present this note to your timetabled teacher at the start of the class
- That you help keep your classrooms tidy

Because

- The teacher/SNA is trying to help you
- Disturbing the class is unfair to others who wish to learn
- Homework is a back-up to the work done in class and reinforces learning
- Your School Journal helps you remember what you must do

- Getting your School Journal signed lets your parents see how you are getting on
- Getting your School Journal signed to leave the classroom helps keep a record of your time missed and let's other teachers know that you have permission to be out of class
- It is important to take responsibility for tidying up after ourselves

5. That you come in properly prepared for your subjects. This means:

- That you have the proper pens, books and copies required for each class
- That you bring in any special materials and equipment needed for class
- All bags, books and Student Journal be kept in good condition and free of graffiti.
- That you are responsible for your own property

Because

- It only wastes time if you haven't got your pens, books etc.
- It is impossible to do the subject without the materials/equipment needed
- Graffiti can offend
- Neatness helps students stay organised. Label clearly each item of personal property

6. That you act in an appropriate manner around the school. This means:

- You proceed quickly and quietly to each class, taking the shortest route
- You wait quietly for your teacher while lining up outside the classroom
- You should walk inside the school and you should avoid pushing or jostling other students.
- You should avoid loud and unruly behaviour both inside and outside classrooms.
- Running or messing in the corridor can lead to accidents or injury. Sanctions will be applied to students who misbehave in the corridor
- You go to your locker only before class begins in the morning, at small break time, at lunchtime and at the end of the school day. Students must always maintain the provided lock on their locker. The school will not accept responsibility for lost or stolen items. Students are expected to keep their lockers clean and tidy
- You should avoid loitering in the toilets during break times or at any other times
- That eating and drinking is allowed only in the canteen area and only at specified times. Students are expected to be respectful and polite to canteen staff.
- Taking your break in the manner and area specified and obeying the instructions of the teacher on duty.
- That you don't break, damage or deface school property
- That you must report to a teacher should you notice graffiti or damage to school property and especially if you notice graffiti on your own desk or chair
- That chewing gum is totally forbidden in the school building and grounds.
- That you do not bring cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, lighters or matches to school .
- That there is an absolute ban on knives, lasers and any type of defensive or offensive weaponry.

- That the production, display or circulation for example, via Facebook and internet, of written words, pictures or other materials which may intimidate, discriminate embarrass or erode the reputation of another person is totally unacceptable.
- That alcohol and substances which effect the body (whether illegal or not) are totally forbidden
- That you may not photograph or record in school without your teacher's permission

Because

- Orderly behaviour helps to run the school smoothly and keeps everyone safe.
- Going to the locker during or between classes detracts from learning and disrupts others.
- Loitering in toilets leads to congestion.
- Specified times and places for eating/drinking helps to keep the school clean and pleasant.
- Obeying break time rules and teachers' instructions is safer and helps with supervision
- Others must use the school property and repairs and replacements are expensive. Everyone is responsible for helping to keep the school environment pleasant.
- Chewing gum destroys flooring, school furniture, tarmac etc. It is a possible health hazard.
- Smoking/Vaping on the school premises is prohibited by law, and besides, it is unhealthy and dangerous.
- The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices is disruptive during class time.
- Matches and lighters are dangerous. Also, this makes it easier not to be tempted to smoke.
- Knives, lasers etc. are banned as they can cause serious harm and be used to intimidate others
- Substance abuse is dangerous, unhealthy, addictive and illegal. It can cause misery and in the longer term may even destroy a young person's life.

7. That you place your device and accessories in the Yondr pouches provided to all students. This means:

- No personal devices can be accessed during school time
- That students have an uninterrupted digital free time while on the school campus
- Students can explore using other sources to obtain information
- That all students will be safe in the knowledge that images or recording will not be taken of them without their permission
- It will allow students to focus on the different lessons
- It allows students to engage more in their lessons

Because

- Devices provide a distraction to both teaching and learning

- They disrupt lessons
- Students tend to check their devices regularly disrupting the train of thought
- Devices although a part of modern life, can pose a risk while in use at school through non consenting of photography/videography.
- Bullying can occur through social media accounts
- Devices reduce students' ability to communicate properly

Boundaries

The St. Bricin's College boundaries are clearly defined, and each student is made aware of the restrictions that apply. 'Boundaries' is taken to mean interior and exterior limits of access for students.

St. Bricin's College boundaries are there for the safety and protection of the student body. The College has a responsibility for the students in its care, and so must be aware of where students are at all times. A regular breach of the College boundaries will be deemed as a serious breach of the College's Code of Behaviour. No students are permitted to leave the school at break and lunchtime.

Students travelling by bus or car

Students travelling to the College by bus are not allowed get off or on buses up town in the morning or afternoon respectively. Students who travel to school by bus are expected to travel home by bus. Permission to do otherwise must be accompanied by an explanatory parental note **together with** permission from the Deputy Principal or Principal.

Parents are requested not to enter the school grounds for pickups unless there is a medical reason or for health and safety reasons.

Students who drive themselves to school must park outside school grounds. Students are not allowed to carry other students in their car, apart from siblings, with parents' permission. Students are not allowed to use, or visit their car to collect belongings, during the school day.

School Trips/Games/Activities

Students of St. Bricin's College undertake many school outings during the year. The College will ensure that safe methods of transport are used.

- Details of the rules for school trips are contained in the CMETB Educational Tours and Field Trips Policy
- Permission from parents/guardians for school trips will be sought at all times
- Students must conduct themselves in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour and refrain from any anti-social behaviour.
- Any student whose VSware points have fallen to below 85 may be precluded from participation on school teams and school trips. Students who have been suspended

or are under investigation for breach of the Code of Behaviour may be withdrawn from school trips and school teams.

- All instructions issued by teachers/supervisors/organisers etc. must be followed.
- Students' participation on school teams/activities is conditional on the student completing both classwork and homework provided by the teachers during the school day.
- Discretion can be used sparingly after consultation with the student, the family, the staff member concerned, the Year Head and senior management if required.

Sport

Participation in sport is a vital aspect of school life in St. Bricin's College.

- Students are required to be punctual for PE classes or sports games, both home and away.
- Students must wear the appropriate PE uniform when participating in PE classes or playing competitive matches and must wear the College uniform when attending away matches.
- Students supporting teams must behave in a manner that reflects positively on St. Bricin's College. Offensive or discriminatory songs, chants and provocative actions do not form part of providing vocal support for the College's teams, and will not be tolerated

Pornography/Offensive/Discriminatory material

- Students must not access or have possession of pornographic, offensive or discriminatory material.
- The possession and/or disseminating of pornographic, offensive or discriminatory material constitutes a serious breach of the College's Code of Behaviour.
- All students are required to adhere to this upon enrolling at St. Bricin's College. A breach of this Policy is subject to immediate suspension and/or expulsion from the College.

Fighting

- Physical fighting is regarded by the College community as unacceptable behaviour and, as such, will always be viewed as a serious breach of the Code of Behaviour, and is subject to immediate suspension and/or expulsion from the College.

Alcohol

- St. Bricin's College views with concern the consumption and abuse of alcohol among people of all ages, including the young. The consumption of alcohol while the student is under the care of the College is strictly prohibited. On no account may students bring/share/sell alcoholic drinks on St. Bricin's College property or during College activities.

- Students who attend St. Bricin's College under the influence of alcohol will have breached the Code of Behaviour and may be subject to immediate suspension and/or expulsion from the College.

Drugs

- The use by a student of prohibited drugs (as defined by St. Bricin's College Substance Misuse Policy - ***A drug can be defined as any chemical that causes change in the way a person functions, either mentally, physically or emotionally and includes prescription drugs and 'legal highs'***) while they are a student of St. Bricin's College is strictly prohibited. This relates to all school activities both during and outside of normal school hours. Any student who uses banned substances, or provides them for another student, will be liable to immediate suspension, and/or expulsion, from the College.
- St. Bricin's College views with concern the consumption and abuse of drugs among people of all ages, including the young. The consumption of drugs or being under the influence of drugs while the student is under the care of the College is strictly prohibited. On no account may students bring/share/sell substances on St. Bricin's College property or during college activities.
- Students who attend St. Bricin's College where staff are reasonably professionally concerned that they are under the influence of banned substances, will have breached the Code of Behaviour and may be subject to automatic suspension and/or expulsion from the College.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified immediately and support services such as the local GP and Gardai will be notified and asked to attend.

Smoking/Vaping

- In accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, it is the policy of the Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare at work of all staff and to protect students/learners, visitors, contractors and other persons at School from injury and ill health arising from any work activity.
- Smoking of tobacco products is already prohibited in CMETB premises, as workplaces, by the Tobacco Smoking (Prohibition) Regulations 2003.

Electronic Smoking/Vaporising Devices

- There is no conclusive medical evidence for or against the safety of e-cigarette use, especially long-term, or the potential effects of passive exposure to emissions from electronic cigarettes. The World Health Organisation is of the view that the safety of e-cigarettes have not been scientifically demonstrated and the potential risks they pose for the health of users remains undetermined. E-cigarettes remain unregulated as either a medicine or food product.
- Because e-cigarettes resemble ordinary cigarettes, their use may promote or renormalize smoking, disrupt the environment for non-smokers, make it harder for

smokers to quit and for the CMETB to support the smoke free policy. The use of e-cigarettes, vaping and/or other electronic tobacco replacement products is banned from all CMETB schools.

Mobile Phones

- The use of mobile phones, recording devices, (audio or image), iPod, Smartwatches or other electronic devices are not allowed on school grounds.
- Students may use their mobile phones in class if, and only if, requested by teachers in the course of class or project work by releasing the magnet lock to aid teaching and learning
- Taking photographs or images and or audio recording by students in school is strictly prohibited.
- The State Examinations Commission does not allow mobile phones to be used as calculators or clocks during state examinations. This is also the school policy for inhouse tests/exams.
- Mobile phones must be placed on airplane mode and then placed in Yondr pouches on entering the school grounds.
- If a mobile phone is not in a Yondr pouch it is deemed contraband and will be confiscated by teachers and kept securely at the front office. A parent must collect the phone at the end of the school day
- If a phone rings or is produced in a classroom or between classes, the phone will be confiscated by the teachers and will be kept securely at the front office. A parent must collect the phone at the end of the school day.
- If students fail to bring their pouch to school, phones will be confiscated in tutor class and kept securely at front office. A parent must collect the phone at the end of the day.
- Pouches are school property; damaged or lost pouches/magnets will incur a replacement fee of €20.
- Further breaches of this rule may result in the prohibited item being confiscated for a longer period or more severe sanctions being imposed.
- A student whose phone has been confiscated may use the school phone to contact home, if necessary.
- Where a student is seen by a member of staff with a phone but refuses to hand it over, an investigation will take place and pending the outcome of the investigation, the student may receive an automatic suspension.
- The school accepts no responsibility for the loss or theft of a mobile phone or any electronic devices in school.
- Should a parent/guardian need to contact a student for urgent reasons during the school day, they should phone the school office.
- Neither will the school undertake an investigation should a loss or theft occur.
- All students are reminded that videoing any member of the school community during school hours is strictly forbidden and a breach of this Code of Behaviour and are also reminded that sharing such content on social media or closed groups bears its own legal repercussions.

Personal Relationships

- Students' personal relationships should not be displayed publicly in the College environment, for example, holding hands, kissing, hugging and so on.

Because

- Being overly affectionate at school is unnecessary, can be offensive or uncomfortable for others and is generally in poor taste.
- The expression of feelings toward one another is a personal concern between the two individuals and thus should not be shared with others in the general vicinity.
- This type of behaviour as a distraction and inappropriate for a school setting

Preventative Measures

In St. Bricin's College students will be encouraged in their efforts to uphold the Code of Behaviour by use of the following measures:

1. The Code of Behaviour will be published on the school website and a summarised version is published in the Student Journal. Students and their parents are asked to read it and to sign their agreement with the content when enrolling. By doing so they acknowledge their support and co-operation with it. This is to ensure that parents and students understand what our rules are, why they must be adhered to and what procedures will be followed if the rules are not upheld.
2. Aspects of the Code are explained at the information meeting held each year for parents of incoming First Years. Parents are encouraged to contact their son/daughter's Tutor or Year Head if they wish to raise a concern about a behavioural matter. Parents are invited to get involved in the Parents' Association or to avail themselves of the meetings organised by the association.
3. At the start of each school year, the Code of Behaviour is explained to all students. This is done to give students the opportunity to think and talk about behaviour, learning and rules so that they can understand what the Code of Behaviour means for them.
4. The Code of Behaviour is published in the Teachers' Handbook. At the beginning of the school year teachers are brought through the main aspects of the implementation of the Code. This is done to promote consistency of practice.
5. We recognise in St. Bricin's College that effective teaching and learning are closely linked to good behaviour. When students are engaged and motivated to learn, it is more likely that their behaviour will be positive. Teachers are encouraged to participate in continuous professional development. Within school, staff development includes exploring different teaching methods such as Assessment for Learning and differentiation. Regular Subject Department meetings address curriculum needs and promote collegiality among staff.
6. If a student is in breach of a rule, they may be asked to explain (orally or in writing) the rule they have breached, to describe what effect this breach has had on members of the school community, and how they could act differently in the future

to avoid being in breach of the rule. This is done to develop the student's sensitivity and consideration for others and to assist them in upholding school rules in future. The principles of Restorative Practice are also applied where possible. Students are encouraged to speak to their Tutor or Year Head if they wish to raise a concern about a behavioural matter.

7. School rules and the reason for them are discussed as part of the school's pastoral care programme and/or as part of SPHE. The notion of tolerance for others, self – control, a sense of fairness and the principles of natural justice are also discussed as part of the Religious Education programme in the school.
8. Issues such as Bullying, Racism, Sexism, Harassment, Violence, Substance Misuse are discussed with the students during their time in our school, using current legislation, current affairs and outside speakers. This is to help the students better understand these issues so that they can base their thinking, understanding and action on information and in the line with the values espoused in our school.
9. The school's Anti-Bullying policy, which will be published on the school website and an area in which a summarised version is published in the Student Journal, sets out the actions taken in relation to alleged breaches of the policy.

Students with Additional Educational Needs:

- Subject teachers, resource teachers and special needs assistants should check that standards and rules are communicated in a way that students with special educational needs can understand. This understanding needs to be checked from time to time especially where a student with special needs is acting in a way that would usually be being in breach of the rules. Teachers may need support in understanding how best to help a student with special educational needs to conform to the behavioural standards and expectations of the school.

Rewards

In our school, teachers' use the following methods to reward students for upholding the Code of Behaviour:

- Verbal praise of student by teacher privately.
- Positive note recorded in the Student Journal and/or VSware
- Rewards points system on VS Ware.
- End of year rewards trip.
- Lunch card tokens for the canteen.
- Certificates sent home.
- Positive comment regarding the student to the Tutor or Year head.
- Verbal praise of students at assembly.
- Leadership role given to students as Prefects and as elected Student Council members.
- Class outing related to the curriculum.
- Brief, positive note or phone call to parents.
- Highlight curricular/extra-curricular achievements on notice boards in classrooms and corridors.
- Display of student's work around the school.

- Highlight curricular/extra-curricular achievements on school website, school Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts and school newsletter or in local newspapers.
- Recognition at end of year awards night.

Students with Additional Educational Needs:

- Rewards for students with additional educational needs should take account of their learning styles. For all students and especially those with learning difficulties, a reward will have an impact when it is closely linked in time to the behaviour that is being rewarded.

Strategies and Sanctions

The purpose of these strategies and sanctions is to bring about a change in behaviour. They help students to learn that their behaviour is unacceptable and to learn to take responsibility for their behaviour. The following strategies and sanctions are used so that our students understand that they have choices about their own behaviour and that all choices have consequences. They are scaled to take account of the nature of the incident, the situation leading up to the incident and are implemented by the staff of the school in accordance with our system of referral.

- A reminder or caution to the student
- Interview or talk with the student outlining the expected behaviour
- Alter the seating arrangement or move the student seat
- Carrying out a useful task in school
- Extra appropriate work assignment
- Student to present to the teacher before school or at break with the work complete and/or an apology
- Note in Student Journal
- A fine to cover the cost of repair or replacement
- Removal of privilege
- Consultation with Class Tutor
- Telephone call to parents
- Removal of student from scene of incident while still under supervision

Strategies and sanctions for more serious incidents or for consistent breaches of our Code of Behaviour include the following. These may be applied but not necessarily in the order listed.

- Giving the student a piece of written work to do in which they have to outline in writing the rule/rules they breached, the effects this breach had on themselves and on other members of the school community and how they can avoid a repeat of this behaviour.
- Withdrawal from class
- Lunchtime detention

- Three or five-day report
- Meeting with the Discipline Committee
- Behaviour Contract between school, student and parent
- Refer student to Tutor/Year Head/Deputy Principal/Principal
- Telephone call to parents
- Formal letter home
- Meeting with parents
- In house suspension
- Suspension from School (see CMETB Suspension and Expulsion policy)

Lunchtime detention is defined as a period of detention of about 25mins duration during lunchtime on Tuesday's and Thursday's.

Referrals

The basic principle of referral system is that the higher up the ladder an incident is dealt with, the more serious it is viewed. The ladder of referral involves all staff in the implementation of the Code of Behaviour in a day-to-day and practical way. It gives an ownership of the policy to all staff, and it is appropriate that they be involved as they operate it on an on-going basis. If a student has a problem which is contributing to their inability to uphold the Code of Behaviour, then the following referrals may be made:

- Blue referral to Year Head
- Referral to Guidance Counsellor
- Referral to Learning Support for testing and/or help in behaviour modification.
- Referral to Deputy Principal
- Referral to Discipline Committee
- Referral to Principal
- Referral to appropriate outside agency

Serious transgressions may mean bypassing of certain steps if deemed appropriate by the Principal.

The Subject Teacher

The subject teacher is the frontline source of help for students. As a leader of learning and someone with an established relationship of trust, the subject teacher will have a strong influence with students. Each teacher has the responsibility for managing behaviour in their own classroom and will deal with routine incidents of misbehaviour through classroom management strategies.

The Class Tutor will also advise and guide the student to reflect on disruptive behaviour with a view to changing to more positive behaviours.

More serious offences should be dealt with under steps 9-19 of our referral system. The role and responsibilities of the Subject Teachers include the following:

- Promoting teaching and learning in a safe and caring environment.
- Giving regular assessments and monitoring progress
- Using the School Journal, VShare and School App as a method of communication with home re: behaviour, work rate, homework, attendance etc
- Keeping records of any incidents which may occur during class including the student database.
- Each student is equipped with a School Journal, which the Class Tutor signs at the end of each week and parents/guardians are requested to countersign
- Completing an escalation in the event of ongoing problems and to the Year Head, having utilised and recorded classroom sanctions to date.
- Recording a class attendance for each class, each day on VS Ware.
- Completing progress and exam reports.
- Implementing school rules throughout the school.
- Contacting parents to discuss areas of concern in their subject area.

The Year Head

Each Year Group is assigned a teacher with special responsibility for them. They have a pastoral and disciplinary role to play with the class groups that make up this year group. The role and responsibilities of the Year Head include the following, but this list is non-exhaustive:

- Dealing with blue referral sheets or escalations received from subject teachers.
- Contacting parents to discuss areas of concern.
- Checking student journals/student database on a regular basis.
- Ensuring that the student's discipline and academic records are kept up to date in the appropriate files.
- Monitoring the uniform and hygiene of students and taking appropriate action to ensure everyone conforms to the appropriate dress code.
- Issuing and monitoring of day and progress reports.
- Meeting with parents to discuss and resolve any problems or difficulties relating to students. (Parents must contact the school secretary to make an appointment to attend a meeting with the Year Head)
- Attending weekly meetings with the Principal, Deputy Principal. These meetings will focus on different aspects of school life including discipline, behaviour, student problems etc. A range of sanctions/recommendations may be decided at this meeting.
- In the event of a serious breach of the St. Bricin's College Code of Behaviour, the Year Head will be a Key Investigator collating the necessary files in relation to the incident. In the event, that the Year Head is not able to investigate this incident an alternative Year Head or Deputy Principal will carry out this role.

- To refer students to the Discipline Committee after a serious transgression of school Code of Behaviour or when a VSware points threshold has been reached.

The Discipline Committee

This committee will consist of the Deputy Principal, an Assistant Principal 1 (Year Head), a class teacher and the Guidance Counsellor. The Discipline Committee can decide contracts of behaviour for students who appear before it. These contracts must be adhered to by students.

The Deputy Principal or Principal

Students whose behaviour has not been modified despite the school's best efforts will be referred by the Year Head to the Deputy Principal / Principal. If the Deputy Principal or Principal decide that a suspension is warranted the procedures in the CMETB policy on suspension and expulsion will be followed. Student discipline files are kept in the main office. Contracts and weekly reports are filed, as are copies of letters sent home and contents of telephone conversations and meetings with parents relating to sanctions and interventions.

The Deputy Principal will oversee the Discipline Committee.

Student Support Team

The Student Support Team (SST) meet every Monday morning to discuss any students in which we are concerned about. These concerns may arise from staff referrals, peer referrals, observations and/or parental concerns. Supports if available, can be put in place to support these students at different times throughout the year. The SST consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Year Head's, Guidance Counsellor, and a member of staff who is a non-post holder. The students in question are made aware to the staff after each meeting in a discreet manner.

Expectations for Parents/Guardians

Registration and admission to St. Bricin's College is conditional on parents'/guardians' giving a written undertaking that they accept this Code of Behaviour and that they will make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance by their children. Parents/ Guardians should:

- Provide the school with the necessary contact details where a responsible adult designated by the parent/guardian, may be contacted in case of illness or emergency.
- Inform the school of any changes of contact details such as postal address, email address or phone numbers.
- Inform the school of any changes to family living arrangements or custody arrangements.

- Inform the school of any trauma/difficulty, which may affect your child's performance or behaviour in school.
- Inform the school if your child is ill or absent for any reason. Note to be sent through the School App.
- If your child is absent for three or more days, please inform the school.
- Inform the Class Tutor/ Year Head if a student must take prescribed medication during school hours. (Students are not allowed to give fellow students any form of medication).
- Explain the Code of Behaviour to your children.
- Support the discipline structures within the school to maintain a good learning environment for all.
- Ensure that your child complies with sanctions that may be imposed for breaches of school rules.
- Ensure that their child completes any homework given by subject teachers neatly and to an acceptable standard and complies with the homework policy.
- Ensure that their child takes home their school bag every day and has everything they need for the school day
- Ensure that deadlines for coursework and project work are met and work is submitted.
- Check school journals, VShare and the School App on a regular basis for correspondence/updates from teachers.
- Check students' results and encourage your son/daughter to achieve to their full potential.
- Contact the office and make an appointment if they wish to meet a member of the staff.
- Attend Parent/Teacher meetings as organised with their child.

Communication between school and home

- The school journal is the first line of contact between subject teachers and parents in relation to teaching and learning.
- Parents/Guardians are provided with access details for VShare where they can monitor attendance, progress, and behaviour records.
- The School App will become the main line of communication between the whole school community and home.
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to contact the school if they are worried about any aspect of their child's progress in school.
- Constructive information regarding their child's progress and behaviour is made through progress reports and parent/teacher meetings.
- Parents/guardians are informed at an early stage, of any discipline problems that may arise with their child.
- Parents/guardians are informed about school activities by School App notifications, text messages, website, Parents Association meetings etc.
- Awards, graduation, information meetings, class celebrations, open day/evening etc. are held where parents/guardians can attend.

Procedures in the event of consistent breaches of the Code of Behaviour:

1. A student may be referred to a member of the Student Support Team on the advice of the Class Tutor or Year Head.
2. Detention, withdrawal of privileges from a student or withdrawal from class or Weekly Report or Contract may be used for specific transgressions for example poor punctuality, homework not done or unsatisfactory behaviour.
3. If a student isn't wearing the correct uniform, they should have a note of explanation, signed by a parent/guardian, in their school journal or through the School App. If the correct uniform is not worn on three occasions the student will receive an appropriate sanction and the parents will be informed. Jackets, coats, and jumpers not conforming to the school uniform are not permitted.
4. There may be cases of indiscipline that will require the Principal to act independently of the above procedures in order to maintain the safety of a student or staff.
5. The Senior Management Team, in consultation with the year heads, will make the final decision if the school is confident enough about the standard of behaviour of a student whether to take him/her on a school tour, especially an overnight tour.
6. The Principal has the authority to suspend a student for up to three days if this is deemed necessary. This may be extended to five days in consultation with the Chairperson of the Board of Management. Procedures for suspension are set out in the attached CMETB Suspension and Expulsions Policy and Procedures.
7. In the case of a student who continues to misbehave, the student's case may be referred to the Board of Management of St. Bricin's College.
8. The Board of Management may decide on the permanent exclusion of a student following the procedures laid out in the attached CMETB Suspension and Expulsions Policy and Procedures.
9. All incidents of indiscipline are recorded electronically in the School's Discipline System on VSware.
10. The school reserves the right to withdraw a student from an extra-curricular activity or from any other privilege of the school's choice if the said student is in breach of school rules or regulations.
11. All fees paid to the school are non-refundable.

Student Management Information System

St. Bricin's College uses VSware for our Student Management Information System. It is an excellent service for our parents/guardians. All parents have been provided with a unique username/login and password which can be used to access VSware. Parents/Guardians can see the following information in relation to their children on VSware 24/7:

- Reports (current and historic)
- Attendance (Daily and by class subject)
- Timetable
- Behaviour
- List of Classes and Teachers

Graded System for minor incidents and rewards

Every student begins each year and each term on 100 VShare points. Past points can be viewed on VShare.

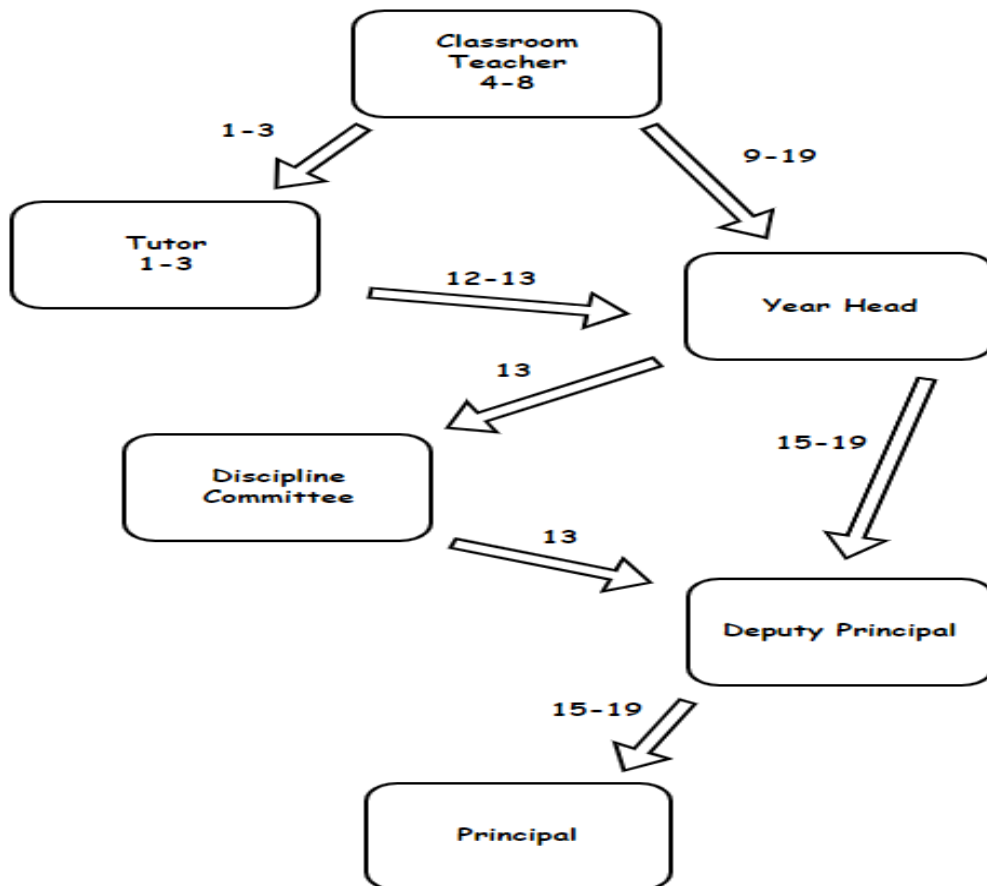
- Points are deducted for minor indiscretions which parents can view.
- Indiscretions can be referred to Year Head.
- Lunch time detentions may be given (Tuesday's & Thursday's 1.30-1.59pm).
- Failure to attend lunch time detention (1.30-1.59pm) is deemed as non-complaint with school disciplinary procedures and will warrant an after-school detention on Friday
- Failure to attend after school detention on Friday's is deemed as non-complaint with school disciplinary procedures and will warrant a suspension.
- If a student reaches 85 points, they will go on a 3-day report.
- If a student reaches 85 points, they will not be permitted to attend any trips or school activities.
- If a student reaches 70 points, they must sit before the Discipline Committee.
- Parents will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the student's behaviour and how it could be improved.
- Parents and students will be asked to sign a contract of acceptable behaviour
- If a student reaches 60 points, more serious sanctions may be considered
- Students have the opportunity to gain/redeem points in a variety of ways for example recognition for work, participation in activities, improved performance in class/tests, commendations by teachers etc.

Note: This is not a direct ladder of referral. Each step of the ladder is not necessarily sequential. The Board of Management delegates authority to the Principal to make changes to the system of referral in exceptional circumstances.

VShare Points System

	Positive Behaviour	Points awarded	Negative Behaviour	Points deducted
1.	Punctual.	+1	Unprepared for lessons.	-1
2.	Full school uniform.	+1	Poor time keeping.	-1
3.	All necessary materials.	+1	Unsatisfactory uniform.	-1
4.	Excellent work.	+1	Unsatisfactory classwork.	-1
5.	Improved work ethic/performance.	+1	No homework.	-1
6.	Working well with others.	+1	Challenging instructions.	-2
7.	Effective listening.	+1	Disrupting learning and teaching	-2
8.	Helpful.	+1	Disrespecting others/the school	-2
9.	Being considerate.	+1	Year head referral.	-3
10.	Showing respect.	+2	Suspension.	-5
11.	Excellent attendance.	+2		
12.	Extra-curricular achievement.	+2		
13.	Representing the school.	+3		
14.	Showing good community spirit.	+3		
15.	Commendation.	+3		
16.	Distinction.	+5		

Referral System



	Breach	Refer	Interventions and Possible sanctions
1	No Journal	FT	Temporary journal issued Lunch detention after breaches on 3 days
2	Unsatisfactory uniform	FT	Lunch detention after 3 breaches
3	Failure to attend lunch time detention 1 st time	FT	Rescheduled detention
4	No Homework	YH	Lunch detention Extra work
5	Challenging instruction	YH	Lunch detention
6	Unexplained lateness for class	YH	Lunch detention after 3 breaches
7	Disrupting teaching and learning	YH	Lunch detention after 3 breaches
8	Unprepared for lessons	YH	Lunch detention after 3 breaches
9	Failure to attend lunch time detention 2 nd time	YH	Friday detention
10	Serious Behaviour Issues	YH	Friday detention Report card Reverse suspension
11	Disrespecting others/the school	YH	Friday detention Report card Reverse suspension
12	3 recorded breaches of same code 1-8 in a half term	YH	Year Head referral Meeting with pupil Text sent home
13	3 more recorded breaches of same code 1-8 in a half term	YH	Year Head referral Meeting with Parents Possible suspension
14	Persistent recurrence of breaches of the code of behaviour	DC	Behaviour contract Possible suspension
15	Prohibited substances	YH	Year Head referral Friday detention Meeting with Parent Possible suspension Possible expulsion
16	Bullying	YH	Behaviour contract Possible suspension
17	Refusal to hand over mobile phone	YH	Year Head referral Possible suspension
18	Acts of aggression/violence	YH	Year Head referral Behaviour contract Possible suspension
19	Vandalism	YH	Year Head referral Meeting with Parent Fine/Repair Detention Suspension

Implementation

This Code of Behaviour is issued to student and their parents/guardians on application for enrolment and acceptance as a student of the school is contingent on written confirmation of its acceptance. All registered students of the school have a summarised version of the Code of Behaviour in their School Journal. The Code will be published in its entirety on the school website and is also available from the school upon request. All staff have a copy of the Code in their Teachers' Handbook.

At the beginning of each year each class is brought through the Code of Behaviour. This is done to give students the opportunity to think and talk about behaviour, learning and rules so that they can understand what the Code of Behaviour means for them. At the beginning of the school year teachers are also brought through the main aspects of the implementation of the Code. This is done to promote consistency of practice.

This Code of Behaviour was drawn up in consultation with the parents, students, staff and management of St. Bricin's College. The Code is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. Aspects of the Code are discussed formally at Year Head, Staff, Department and Committee meetings. Teachers are encouraged to communicate concerns and suggestions to the Student Support or Discipline committee teams.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management of St. Bricin's College at the meeting of the Board on:

Signed: _____
(Chairperson)

Date: _____

Signed: _____
(Principal)

Date: _____



cmetb
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
an Chabháin agus Mhuineacháin
Cavan and Monaghan
Education and Training Board



ST. BRICIN'S COLLEGE

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

CAVAN AND MONAGHAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA AN CHABHÁIN AGUS MHUINEACHÁIN

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

1. Policy Statement

1. The suspensions and expulsions policy applies to all schools established and maintained by Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board.

2. Legal framework

1. Cavan and Monaghan ETB acknowledges the duty of schools under its control to publish their policy concerning admission and participation in the school, including the policy of the school relating to the expulsion and suspension of students pursuant to Section 15 (d) of the Education Act 1998, as amended by Section 7 of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and Section 23 of the Education Welfare Act 2000. The Code of Behaviour in St. Bricin's College specifies:

- The standards of behaviour that shall be observed by each student attending the school
- The measures that may be taken when a student fails or refuses to observe those standards
- The procedures to be followed before a student may be suspended or expelled from a school
- The grounds for removing a suspension imposed in relation to a student
- The procedures to be followed relating to notification of a child's absence from school.

2. St. Bricin's College affirms that its Code of Behaviour is prepared in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Education Welfare Board 2008. The Code of Behaviour addresses:

- The standards of behaviour expected in the school
- The plan for promoting good behaviour
- The ways in which a school responds to unacceptable behaviour
- The plan for implementing the code of behaviour
- School procedures for the use of suspension and expulsion

3. St. Bricin's College recognises the Right to Appeal pursuant to Section 29 of the Education Act, as amended by the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018.

4. In regard to informing Education Welfare Services, St. Bricin's College affirms its statutory obligation pursuant to section 21 (4)(a) of the Education Welfare Act.

5. St. Bricin's College affirms that data collected in relation to students and parents is in compliance with the Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018 and the GDPR.

3. **Suspensions**

1. The Board of Management of St. Bricin's College holds the authority to suspend a student. This authority is devolved under Section 44 (11(a)) of the Education and Training Boards Act 2013 by Cavan and Monaghan ETB to the Boards of Management of each of the schools under its control.

2. Cavan and Monaghan ETB recognises that the Boards of Management of St. Bricin's College may delegate this authority to the Principal of St. Bricin's College. The Board of Management should make a formal delegation arrangement taking due account of the provisions of the Education and Training Boards Act 2013.

3. St. Bricin's College recognises that suspension is only one strategy within the St. Bricin's College Code of Behaviour in response to inappropriate behaviour.

4. St. Bricin's College recognises that when all other strategies have been exhausted, suspension affords a student time to reflect on their behaviour, to acknowledge and accept responsibility for their behaviour and to accept the need for the behaviour to change. St. Bricin's College works closely with parents to assist a suspended student to re-join the school community successfully.

5. St. Bricin's College acknowledges that suspension should be a proportionate response to the behaviour that is causing concern. The decision to suspend a student requires serious grounds such as that:

- The student's behaviour has had a seriously detrimental effect on the education of other students.
- The student's continued presence in the school at this time constitutes a threat to safety.
- The student is responsible for serious damage to property.
- The student breaches the Code of Behaviour. (At the discretion of the Principal.)

6. St. Bricin's College affirms that all suspensions must be notified to the Board of Management of St. Bricin's College.

7. St. Bricin's College affirms that the Education Welfare Services of the Child and Family (Tusla) should be Informed of suspensions in the following circumstances:

- Where the period of suspension is for 6 or more consecutive school days.
- Where the aggregate number of days on which a student has been suspended /absent in any school year is 20 or more days.

8. St. Bricin's College affirms that suspension may occur after the following factors have been considered:

- The nature and seriousness of the behaviour
- The impact and context of the behaviour
- The interventions tried to date
- That all discipline options under the St. Bricin's College Code of Behaviour have been applied and documented
- That all actions /decisions taken are recorded and all correspondence copied.
- Discussion has occurred with the student and parent(s) regarding the specific behaviour which the school considers unacceptable, and which may lead to suspension.

9. The Board of Management of St. Bricin's College affirms that students attending St. Bricin's College may be suspended as follows, pending investigation and /or discussion with parents. The following list is not exhaustive:

- For serious misbehaviour
- For an unacceptable level of repeated misbehaviour
- For bullying, insulting, aggressive or violent behaviour towards others whether in person, by mobile phone or via social media or other electronic means; in the school, or when identifiable with the school
- For the supply/possession /use of alcohol and /or illegal drugs
- For the supply /possession /use of weapons/ hazardous materials
- For behaviour that may be a danger to self or others
- For racist behaviour /supply of racist behaviour/use of racist material
- For behaviour that is contrary to the terms of the Equal Status Act 2000

- For sexual harassment and/or the possession/supply /use of pornographic material.

10. St. Bricin's College acknowledges that a single incident of serious misconduct may be grounds for suspension. Such grounds may include where the continued presence of the student in the school at the time would represent a serious threat to the safety or welfare of students, staff of the school or any other person.

11. A student may be suspended during a state examination and such suspension should normally be approved by the Board of Management of St. Bricin's College. This type of suspension should only be used where there is:

- A threat to good order in the conduct of the examination
- A threat to the safety or welfare of other students and personnel
- A threat to the right of the other students to do their exam in a calm atmosphere.

12. Cavan and Monaghan ETB recognises that the Board of Management of St. Bricin's College may decide as part of the school's policy on sanctions and following consultation process with the Principal, parents, teachers and students, that particular named behaviour incur suspension as a sanction. This does not remove the duty to follow due process and fair procedures in each case.

4. **Inappropriate use of Suspension**

- Rolling suspension. A student should not be suspended again shortly after they return to St. Bricin's College unless they engage in serious misbehaviour that warrants suspension, that fair procedures are observed in full, and the standard applied to judging the behaviour is the same as that standard applied to the behaviour of any other student.
- Informal / unacknowledged suspension. Exclusion of a student for part of the school day as a sanction is a suspension.
- Open-ended suspension. Students should not be suspended for an indefinite period. Any such suspension would be regarded as a de-facto expulsion.

5. **Procedures in respect of Suspension.**

1. Cavan and Monaghan ETB affirm that St. Bricin's College is required to follow fair procedures when proposing to suspend a student. The school should observe the following procedures

- The student and parent(s) should be informed about the complaint
- The student and parent(s) should be given the opportunity to respond
- In the case of 'immediate' suspension, a preliminary investigation should be conducted to establish the case for the imposition of the suspension. Parents must be notified, and arrangement made for the student to be collected from the school. The school must have due regard for its duty of care for the student.

2. A student should not be suspended for more than 3 days except in exceptional circumstances. Cavan and Monaghan ETB recognises that the Board of Management of St. Bricin's College should provide guidance to the Principal concerning the kinds of circumstances under which suspensions of longer than 3 days might be approved. If a suspension of longer than 3 days is being proposed the matter should be referred to the Board of Management for consideration and approval. However, Cavan and Monaghan ETB recognises that **the Board of Management of St. Bricin's College may wish to authorise the Principal, with the approval of the Chairperson of the Board of Management, to impose a suspension of up to 5 days in circumstances where a meeting of the Board cannot be convened in a timely fashion.** Such authorisation must be recorded in the minutes of meeting of the Board of Management and reviewed on an annual basis.

3. Cavan and Monaghan ETB affirm the Boards of Management of St. Bricin's College should formally review any proposal to suspend a student where the suspension would bring the number of days for which the student has been suspended in the current school year to 20 days or more. Any such suspension is subject to appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

6. Implementing the suspension

1. The Principal of St. Bricin's College should notify the Parent(s) and the student in writing of the decision to suspend. The letter will confirm:

- The period of the suspension and the dates on which the suspension will begin and end.
- The reasons for the suspension.
- Any study programme to be followed.
- The arrangements for returning to school, including any commitments to be entered into by the student and the parents.
- The provision for an appeal to the Department of Education, in the case of a suspension which would bring the days suspended in one academic over 20 days.

2. In the case where Parents do not agree to meet with the Principal, Cavan and Monaghan ETB confirms that written notice will serve as notice to impose a suspension.

3. A suspension may be removed if the Board of Management of St. Bricin's College decides to remove the suspension for any reason.

7. **Section 29 Appeal against Suspension**

1. Where the total number of days for which the student has been suspended in the current school year reaches 20 days, the parent(s) or a student aged over 18 years, may appeal the suspension under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 to the Minister for Education.

2. An appeal may be made by the parent of the student concerned, or by the student concerned where the student has reached the age of 18 years. In accordance with section 26 of the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) may appoint a person, independent of that Agency, to appeal a decision of a board of management or person acting on behalf of the board of management to permanently exclude a student from a school.

3. An appeal must be made within **42 calendar days** from the date of the decision of the board of management or a person acting on behalf of the board of management.

4. Appeals must be made in writing on the Section 29 Appeal Form and submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit which has been established within the Department of Education to provide administrative support to enable appeals committees perform their functions. The Section 29 Appeal Form may be downloaded from the Department's website or obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website www.education.ie.

8. **Expulsion**

1. Cavan and Monaghan ETB has the authority to expel a student. This authority may be delegated under Section 44 (11(a)) of the Education and Training Boards Act 2013 by Cavan and Monaghan ETB to the Board of Management of St. Bricin's College.

2. Expulsion should be a proportionate response to the student's behaviour. St. Bricin's College acknowledges that expulsion of a student is a very serious step and one that should only be taken by the Board of Management of St. Bricin's College in extreme cases of unacceptable behaviour.

3. The Board of Management of St. Bricin's College affirms that St. Bricin's College needs to have taken significant steps to address the misbehaviour and to avoid expulsion.

Such measures may include:

- Meeting with parents and students to try and find ways of helping the student to change their behaviour.
 - Making sure that the student understands the possible consequences of their behaviour should it persist
 - Ensuring that all possible options have been tried.
 - Seeking the assistance of relevant support agencies, e.g. Child and Family Agency (Tusla) Education Welfare Services, HSE Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. National Behavioural Support Service JLO, NEPS, NCSE.
4. A proposal to expel a student requires serious grounds such as that:
 - The student's behaviour is a persistent cause of significant disruption to the learning of others or to the teaching process
 - The student's continued presence in the school constitutes a real and significant threat to the safety and welfare of others.
 - The student is responsible for serious damage to property.
 5. Before expulsion is considered, school authorities must satisfy themselves that all possibilities have been exhausted for changing the student's behaviour.
 6. 'Automatic Expulsion'

The Board of Management of St. Bricin's College may decide in consultation with the Principal, parents, teachers and students that particular named behaviours would result in 'Automatic' expulsion. This does not remove the duty to follow due process and fair procedure.

7. Expulsion for first or once-off offence

There may be exceptional circumstances where the Board of Management of St. Bricin's College decides that a student should be expelled for a first offence. The kinds of behaviour that might result in a proposal to expel on the basis of a single breach of the Code of Behaviour could include:

- A serious threat of violence against another student or member of staff
- Actual violence or physical assault
- Supplying illegal drugs to students in the school
- Sexual assault

9. **Factors to Consider before proposing to expel a student**

1. The Board of Management of St. Bricin's College should take the following factors into consideration before considering expelling a student:

- The nature and seriousness of the behaviour
- The context of the behaviour
- The impact of the behaviour
- The interventions already tried to change the student's behaviour
- Whether expulsion is a proportionate response
- The possible impact of expulsion

2. Expulsion would not be appropriate for the following:

- Poor academic performance
- Poor attendance or lateness
- Minor breaches of the Code of Behaviour

However, any behaviour that is persistently disruptive to learning or dangerous can be a serious matter. Behaviour must be examined in context to understand both the behaviour itself and the response or sanction that is most appropriate.

10. **Procedures in respect of expulsion**

1. A detailed investigation will be carried out under the direction of the Principal. The Principal should ensure that no party who has had any involvement with the circumstances of the case is part of the investigation.

2. The Principal should inform the student and his/her parents about the specific details of the alleged breach of behaviour, how it will be investigated and that it could result in expulsion. The Principal must ensure that the student and parents are given every opportunity to respond to the complaint of serious misbehaviour. The Principal should communicate this in writing to ensure that parents have a permanent record of having been informed.

3. A meeting should be arranged between the student and their parents and the Principal of St. Bricin's College before a sanction is imposed.

4. Should a student and their parent(s) fail to attend a meeting the Principal should write advising:

- the seriousness of the matter
- the importance of attending a re-scheduled meeting
- Failing that, the duty of the school authorities to make a decision to respond to the inappropriate behaviour
- Record all correspondence

5. Where the Principal of St. Bricin's College forms a view, based on the investigation of the alleged misbehaviour, that expulsion may be warranted, the Principal shall make a recommendation to the Board to consider expulsion.

6. The Principal should:

- Inform the student and parents in writing that the Board of Management is being asked to consider expulsion.
- Ensure that parents have written records of (a) the allegation, (b) the investigation, (c) written notice of the grounds on which the Board of Management is being asked to consider expulsion.
- Provide the Board with the same comprehensive records as are given to the student and the parents.
- Notify the parents in good time of the date of the hearing with the Board of management and invite them to that hearing.
- Advise the parents that they can make a written and oral submission to the Board of Management.
- Ensure parents are given enough notice to allow them to prepare for the meeting.

7. It is the responsibility of the Board of Management of St. Bricin's College to review the initial investigation and satisfy itself that the investigation was properly conducted in line with fair procedures.

8. The Board of Management should undertake its own review of documentation and all circumstances of the case.

9. The Board of Management should ensure that no party who has had any involvement with the circumstances of the case is part of the Board's deliberations.

10. Where the Board of Management of St. Bricin's College decides to expel a student, it must hold a hearing and this meeting should be properly conducted in accordance with Board procedures.

11. Parents may be accompanied at the Board hearing but, as this is a lay forum; legal representation is not the normal practice, however it may be allowed due to the potentially serious consequences for the student. The Board Secretary should be informed in writing who shall be attending this meeting at least two days prior to the meeting taking place.

12. At the start of the meeting the Chairperson shall enquire whether any member has an objective bias in respect of the matter being considered by the Board. Where the Board is satisfied that an objective bias exists, the member(s) involved shall withdraw from the meeting.

13. At the hearing the Principal and the parents, or a student aged 18 or over, put their case to the Board in each other's presence and will be available to answer

questions from Board Members. Each party should be allowed question the evidence of the other party. Questions should be directed through the Chairperson at the end of each presentation.

14. Once the Principal and the Parents have made their cases, they will withdraw from the meeting.

15. Should the Board require the professional advice of the Principal, the Principal may be invited to return to the meeting briefly for that purpose. While the Principal is present, there will be no discussion on the merits of the particular case being considered.

16. In the conduct of the hearing the Board must take care to ensure they are and are seen to be impartial as between the Principal and the student. Parents may wish to be accompanied at hearings and the Board should facilitate this in line with good practice and Board procedures.

17. When both sides have been heard the Board should ensure that the Principal and Parents are not present for the Board's deliberations.

18. In hearing and considering a proposed expulsion the Board shall have regard to:

- a. the nature, scale and persistence of any behaviour alleged to have given rise to, or contributed to, the decision made by or on behalf of the Board,
- b. the reasonableness of any efforts made by the school to enable the student to whom the appeal relates (the 'student concerned') to participate in and benefit from education,
- c. the educational interests of the student concerned and the desirability of enabling the student as far as practicable to participate in and benefit from education with his or her peers,
- d. the educational interests of, and the effective provision of education for, other students of the school and the maintenance of a classroom and school environment which is supportive of learning among the students of the school and ensures continuity of instruction provided to students in any classroom concerned and the school,
- e. the safety, health and welfare of teachers, students and staff of the school,
- f. the code of behaviour under section 23 of the Education (Welfare) Act of 2000 and other relevant policies of the school and —

(i) in the case of that code of behaviour, the extent to which it is in compliance with that section 23 and any guidelines issued under subsection (3) of that section, and

(ii) in the case of those other policies, the extent to which each of them is implemented, promotes equality of access to and participation in education and is in compliance with —

(I) any enactment that imposes duties on schools or their boards,

(II) any relevant guidelines or policies of the Minister,

g. the duties on schools or their boards imposed by or under any enactment,

h. guidelines issued pursuant to section 22(7) of the Act of 2000, and

i. such other matters as the Board considers relevant.

11. Board of Management deliberations and actions following the hearing

1. Having heard from all the parties involved it is the responsibility of the Board to decide whether or not the allegation is substantiated and if expulsion is the appropriate sanction.
2. When the Board of Management having considered all the facts of the case, is of the opinion that the student should be expelled, the Board must notify the Education Welfare Officer in writing of its opinion and the reasons for this opinion pursuant to section 24 91) of the Education Welfare Act 2000. The Board should refer to the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) Education Welfare Services reporting procedures for proposed expulsions.
3. The student cannot be expelled before the passage of 20 school days from the date on which the EWO receives this written notification.
4. The Board of Management should inform the parents in writing about its conclusions and where expulsion is proposed the parents should be informed that the Board of Management will inform the Education Welfare Officer.

12. Consultations arranged by the Educational Welfare Officer

1. Within 20 days of receipt of a notification from a Board of Management the EWO will make all reasonable attempts to hold individual consultations with the Principal, the parent and the student. The EWO will convene a meeting of those parties. These consultations will focus on alternative educational arrangements for the student.
2. Pending the consultations in 12.1 the Board of Management may consider it appropriate to suspend a student during this time. This should only be considered where the continued presence of the student during this time would seriously disrupt the learning of others or represent a risk to the safety and health of students or staff.

13. Confirmation of the decision to expel

1. When the 20-day period following notice to the EWO has elapsed and the Board of Management remains of the view that the student should be expelled, the Board of Management should formally confirm the decision to expel. The Board of

Management may delegate authority to the Chairperson and Secretary to review this decision of expulsion after the twenty days has expired.

2. Parents should be notified immediately that the expulsion will now proceed. Parents and the student must be informed of their right to appeal to the Minister for Education.

3. Confirmation of the expulsion must be notified to the EWO using the online form.

14. **Section 29 Appeal against Expulsion**

1. The parent(s) or a student aged over 18 years, may appeal the expulsion under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

2. Parents and the student should be informed about their right to appeal to the Minister for Education.

3. An appeal may be made by the parent of the student concerned, or by the student concerned where the student has reached the age of 18 years. In accordance with section 26 of the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) may appoint a person, independent of that Agency, to appeal a decision of a board of management or person acting on behalf of the board of management to permanently exclude a student from a school.

4. An appeal must be made within **42 calendar days** from the date of the decision of the board of management or a person acting on behalf of the board of management.

5. Appeals must be made in writing on the **Section 29 Appeal Form** and submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit which has been established within the Department of Education to provide administrative support to enable appeals committees perform their functions. The Section 29 Appeal Form may be downloaded from the Department's website or obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website www.education.ie.

15. **Review of use of Expulsion**

1. The Board of Management of St. Bricin's College should review the use of expulsion in the school at regular intervals.

16. **Implementation and Review of Policy**

1. The Principal and Board of Management of St. Bricin's College will responsible for the implementation of this policy.
2. This policy shall be reviewed periodically, in light of emerging legislation and circulated Guidelines from the Department of Education from its official adoption by the Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board and St. Bricin's College Board of Management.

This policy was adopted by Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board on 13 November 2013.

This policy was reviewed in May 2015 and adopted by Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board for incorporation into school's Codes of Behaviour on 13 May 2015.

This policy was reviewed in November 2020 in light of commencement of changes to the Section 29 Appeals procedures under the Education (Admission to schools) Act 2018 and approved by the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team on 11 January 2021.

This policy was ratified by the St. Bricin's College Board of Management on _____

Signed: _____
(Chairperson)

Date: _____

Signed: _____
(Principal)

Date: _____

Principal: Jody Ó Gallchóir

Deputy Principal: Stephen Smith

Telephone: 049-9522170

Email: info@stbricinscollege.ie

Website: www.stbricinscollege.ie

Definitions under the Education Act, 1998

“parent” includes a foster parent, a guardian appointed under the Guardianship of Children Acts, 1964 to 1997, or other person acting in *loco parentis* who has a child in his or her care subject to any statutory power or order of a court and, in the case of a child who has been adopted under the Adoption Acts, 1952 to 1998, or, where the child has been adopted outside the State, means the adopter or adopters or the surviving adopter;

“Principal” means a person appointed under *section 23*;

“school” means an establishment which—

(a) provides primary education to its students and which may also provide early childhood education, or

(b) provides post-primary education to its students and which may also provide courses in adult, continuing or vocational education or vocational training, but does not include a school or institution established in accordance with the Children Acts, 1908 to 1989, or a school or institution established or maintained by a health board in accordance with the Health Acts, 1947 to 1996, or the Child Care Act, 1991;

“student”, in relation to a school, means a person enrolled at the school and in relation to a centre for education, means a person registered as a student in that centre;

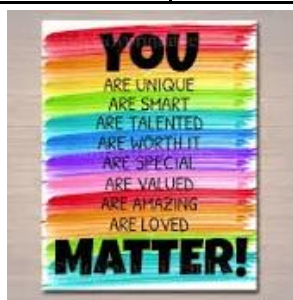
St. Bricin's College Target Sheet No: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

- **Target 1.** Full uniform each day.
- **Target 2.** Bringing schoolbag to all lessons, home and back again in the morning
- **Target 3.** To have all materials for my lessons
- **Target 4.** Respectful interactions with everyone.
- **Target 5.** Not leaving the school grounds without permission

Time	Teacher Signature	Comment	Toilet Break
9.00-9.12			
9.12-10.10			
10.10-11.08			
11.28-12.26			
12.26-1.24			
2.04-3.02			
3.02-4.00			



I have **Amazing** Potential and I can **Make** **GOOD CHOICES** Today I will treat others with **Kindness** and I will be a friend to someone in **Need**



cmetb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
an Chabháin agus Mhuineacháin
*Cavan and Monaghan
Education and Training Board*



ST BRICIN'S COLLEGE
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
CAVAN AND MONAGHAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD
BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA AN CHABHÁIN AGUS MHUINEACHÁIN

SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board Schools Substance Misuse Policy

1. Rationale

The central objective of our Substance Misuse Policy is the welfare, safety, care and protection of students in line with the Education Act 1998 and the Education (Welfare Act 2000) and, in the case of students over 18 years of age, in common law. This reflects the need for CMETB to assist students in dealing with the many challenges affecting their health and well-being. Exposure to alcohol, drugs, tobacco and other substances is part of this reality.

2. Characteristic Spirit

St. Bricin's College is committed to providing quality learning in a safe environment. We aim to provide a learning community driven by high expectation and respect for all. Our work is guided by the belief that every child matters and will achieve more when standards are set high and demand their personal best.

The underlying philosophy is one of concern and caring for students.

3. Scope of Policy

- 3.1.** This policy applies to all schools and centres for education established and maintained by Cavan and Monaghan Training Board (CMETB). The policy applies to the whole community of St Bricin's College with the exclusion of staff who are governed by the CMETB Workplace Substance Abuse Policy. The policy will apply at all times during normal school hours and during times in which students and those who accompany them are involved in school related activities.
- 3.2.** This policy relates to any substance that changes the way the body functions mentally, physically and emotionally. A drug or substance (as used in the context of this policy) is any chemical which alters how the body works, or how the person behaves or feels. This includes illegal and prescription drugs, alcohol, tobacco, legal 'highs', medicines and solvents etc. which all come under the general heading of drugs.

3.3. Definition of School Related Activities

The term 'school related activities' applies to any activities on the school premises, on the way to and from school, lunchtime and breaks and during any school/centre related activities in any location outside the school centre where students are deemed to be participating in school related activities, representing the school or working as part of a school programme.

4. Aims and objectives of Policy

- To provide a safe and secure environment within which the educational development of every student can take place.
- To protect each student and staff member in the school, in an atmosphere of caring and concern, from the potentially harmful effects of alcohol and /or any substance defined as a drug in an atmosphere of caring and concern.
- To provide clear guidelines in regard to the use of alcohol and/or other substances by students.
- To ensure that other than possession of and use of prescribed drugs in accordance with the instructions of a medical practitioner, no student will have possession of, use, sell, supply or attempt to sell or supply to others on the school premises, on the way to or from school or on school related activities as defined in this policy.

5. Relationship to other policies

This policy operates in conjunction with other school and Cavan and Monaghan ETB policies:

- School Code of Behaviour
- School Child Protection Policy
- CMETB Administration of Medications in Schools Policy
- CMETB / School Suspensions and Expulsions Policy as incorporated into the School Code of Behaviour
- Safety Health and Welfare Policy
- School Critical Incident Policy

This list is not exhaustive and may be added to from time to time as the need arises.

6. Relevant Legislation

A range of legislation applies to the operation of this policy including:

- Health Act (1947)
- Poisons Act (1961)
- Medical Preparations Regulations (1970)
- Misuse of Drugs Act (1977, 1984)
- EU and other international regulations
- Criminal Justice Act (1994)

The Road Traffic Act (1961) prohibits the use of mechanical vehicles while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

7. Operation of the Policy

Part 1 – Alcohol and Drugs

7.1. Definition of Substance or Drug

A drug can be defined as any chemical that causes change in the way a person functions either, mentally, physically or emotionally.

A drug or substance (as used in the context of this policy) is any chemical which alters how the body works, or how the person behaves or feels.

Drugs or substances may be addictive and illegal as well as potentially harmful for an individual. Misuse occurs when the use of the drug (legal or illegal) is harmful to the physical, mental or social wellbeing of an individual, group or society. Prescribed drugs, when taken other than as prescribed, can be harmful to the person for whom they have been prescribed or to other(s) for whom they have not.

It is generally accepted that tobacco and alcohol are the most widely abused drugs. However, substances such as cannabis, ecstasy, magic mushrooms, solvents, cocaine, heroin as well as synthetic drugs such as Ecstasy, LSD, methamphetamine etc. are increasingly becoming a problem in our community. It has been recognised that drug use has serious negative effects on the educational experience, performance and attainment of young people. There are many short term and long term effects of drug use.

7.2. Substance or Alcohol use or Personal Possession

- Possession or consumption of alcohol or other substances defined as a 'drug' in the policy, in the school building, on the school premises or by students while they are engaged in any school related activities is expressly forbidden.
- Students found with alcohol or another drug for their own consumption or suspected of being under the influence of any or either, will be disciplined under the School Code of Behaviour. Sanctions and punishments will be implemented depending on

the nature of the offence.

- Students who are in the company of other students who are using drugs or alcohol, though they may not be in the act of using themselves, are deemed to be condoning the act of drug-taking or consumption of alcohol and will be disciplined in the same manner as the users in whose company they are found.

7.3. Student possessing with intent to supply substances in school

- Following evidence of any student involved in selling or distributing illicit substances on school premises, his/her activities will be immediately reported to the Gardaí.
- The student will be suspended in accordance with the Code of Behaviour Suspensions and Expulsions Policy and Procedures, pending a decision by the Board of Management.

7.4. A limited number of staff will be involved in the management of suspected or confirmed drug incidents. Staff will be informed on a "need to know" basis. The Principal or Deputy Principal will hold all written records confidentially. Parents/Guardians will be informed sensitively, and support will be offered to them. In the case of illegal drugs, the Principal or Deputy Principal will contact Garda Liaison Officer and Gardaí will deal with any drugs or drug paraphernalia found in accordance with Criminal Law.

7.5. Pastoral support will be offered in response to all incidents. If a student has a problem with substance misuse, referral to outside agencies will be recommended.

7.6. Parents/Guardians, staff and other students involved in the incident will be offered support. Confidentiality is a complex issue. It is important that the limits of confidentiality are discussed with students before any disclosure is made. The well-being and welfare of the student and teacher must be a primary focus.

7.7. The Principal or Deputy Principal will handle all media enquiries. They will not comment on individual cases but will refer to the school policy and procedures in place to manage any drug related incident.

7.8. Management of Students Suspected of having used a Drug (including alcohol)

- Should a member of staff suspect that a student is under the influence of a substance (s)he will ensure that the student is not left unaccompanied at any time.
- The assistance of another member of staff will be sought, if appropriate and practicable, so that the safety of all students involved is not compromised.
- Medical assistance will be sought immediately.
- The parents/guardians of the student will be contacted as soon as possible.
- In the absence of parents/guardians, a staff member will accompany the student to their GP or hospital, if necessary.
- The student will be suspended from school.
- The school may require a medical certificate on return to school
- Parents/guardians should make an appointment with the Principal to discuss any ongoing or follow up treatment required, integration back into the school community and any supports recommended.
- The duration of the absence will be determined by the nature of the substance taken; the level of dependency; recommendations from external professionals and arrangements with parents/guardians.

In the event of returning to school:

- The student will receive an appropriate caution/ sanction from Principal/Deputy Principal under the School Code of Behaviour.
- A letter confirming this will be sent to parents/guardians.
- The Garda Liaison Officer may be notified if deemed a criminal offence has been committed.
- The school reserves the right to request that the parent/guardian arranges to have the student screened for drug use on a periodic basis as part of an agreed return to school process.
- A formal written report will be made by the member(s) of staff involved.

7.9. Disciplinary Procedures

- The protection and safety of students who have breached the School Code of Behaviour in relation to use of potentially harmful substances is a priority. However, the use of such substances cannot be condoned and students who offend will be disciplined in accordance with the relevant sections of the School's Code of Behaviour.
- A programme of support will be recommended for the student. The school will insist that if the student is to remain in the school, he/she must participate in the agreed programme of support.
- A student who continues to misuse substances may be suspended or expelled from the school following due process.
- A student who supplies illegal/illicit substances to another person(s) in the school will be suspended or expelled from the school following due process. In the event that the incident is deemed a criminal offence, school authorities may be required to notify An Garda Síochána.
- Illicit substances confiscated in the school will be passed on to the appropriate authorities for identification purposes.

7.10. Medication

- Medication will not be issued by school staff. If a student becomes unwell at school, parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to take the student home.
- The CMETB Administration of Medication in Schools Policy governs the administration of medicines in the case of students with on-going medical conditions.
- If a student needs to take medication during school hours parents/guardians should inform the Year Head. In the absence of such notification the possession of non-prescription medication is prohibited.

Part 2. Smoking

7.11. The Board of Management is obliged to ensure that the terms of the Public Health Tobacco Act 2002 and the Public Health Tobacco Amendment Act 2004, are implemented in school.

- Smoking is expressly forbidden in the school building, on the school premises or by students while they are engaged in any school related activities.
- Cigarettes and cigarette or other smoking paraphernalia are prohibited and will be confiscated.

- Students found smoking on the school premises or grounds or while in uniform or engaged in school activities, will be disciplined.
- Students who are in the company of other students who are smoking, though they may not be in the act of smoking themselves, may be deemed to be condoning smoking and will be disciplined as appropriate under the school Code of Behaviour.
- The use of electronic smoking devices 'vaping' is prohibited in all CMETB schools and centres.

7.12. Disciplinary Action

- A student, who is found smoking by a member of staff in the school, will be reported immediately to the Principal/Deputy Principal and his/her parents/guardians will be contacted.
- In-school suspension from class will continue until a parent/guardian comes to the school to collect his/her son or daughter. He/she will face automatic suspension for the rest of that school day.
- Disciplinary action will be decided upon by the Principal and/or Deputy Principal in accordance with the Code of Behaviour.
- The school reserves the right to remove certain privileges from students found smoking during school time e.g. Break/Lunchtime privileges.

8. Training & Development

8.1. Staff

- The School will facilitate training for staff involved in the SPHE programmes through the Education Centres and relevant HSE programmes.
- All staff will be offered drug information and awareness training regularly.
- Specific training will be made available to the Drug Co-Ordinator and key staff in relation to managing drug related incidents.
- First Aid training will be made available to all staff regularly.

8.2. Parents/Guardians

- The School will provide opportunities to attend information evenings on the School Drugs Policy and multi-session substance use education programmes for parents.
- This may be offered as part of the induction for parents/guardians of new students to the School.

8.3. Students

- The College provided Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Education Programmes on a formal and informal, cross-curricular basis.
- These programmes may be run within the context of SPHE classes.
- Age appropriate educational programmes from the community and visiting speakers will build on and enhance existing school programmes.

- TY students may study First Aid and engage in various awareness programmes such as 'Pour you dreams away'.

9. Availability of Policy

This policy is available to staff, students and their parents/guardians, persons who work in the school on a part time and or temporary basis and it applies to all persons who encounter the school or its staff or students when engaged in school related activities. New staff will be informed of the policy when they take up employment in the school.

10. Review of Policy

- This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually on behalf of the Board of Management, by the Principal. The practical application of the policy during the preceding year, its efficacy in preventing the use of drugs, alcohol or other substances and an assessment of the needs of students and staff in regard to education and awareness about use of these, will form part of the review process. Results of this review will be submitted to CMETB.
- The policy may be reviewed periodically by CMETB, in light of emerging legislation and circulated Guidelines from the Department of Education and Skills, advice received from other agencies such as Tusla, HSE, Cavan and Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Service.

This policy was approved by the Board of Management of St Bricin's College on
