An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

External Resources – Alcohol Resources

Dear Principal,

This note is to confirm that, as advised by the HSE and the Department of Health, it is not appropriate to use resources or materials produced or funded by the alcohol industry for education and awareness on alcohol in schools, or for teachers to attend, in their professional capacity, associated training which may be offered by organisations funded by the alcohol industry.

The Department of Health further advises that the involvement of organisations funded by the alcohol industry in providing such resources in schools represents a distinct conflict of interest, and that there is no place for the alcohol industry in schools. It recommends that schools use independent and trusted sources of information when engaging with students on issues around alcohol.

The NCCA provides guidelines for teachers in choosing resources for use in their SPHE programme. In these guidelines the NCCA encourages teachers to question the origin and funding of such resources as well as the evidence base used in their production. If, for example, resources are funded by parties with conflicts of interests, such as alcohol resources produced by Drinkaware, which is funded by the alcohol industry, then in line with the clear advice of the HSE and the Department of Health they should not be used in schools. In the same way, these guidelines apply in regard to resources funded by other industry sectors where there is a potential conflict of interest.

These guidelines are available on the NCCA's online toolkit here: Preparation for Teaching (curriculumonline.ie).

There are evidence-based resources on alcohol and drugs for schools developed by the HSE with the support of the Department of Education and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). The 'Know the Score' programme is a substance misuse programme published in 2019 for Transition Year or 5th year pupils. Know the Score can be found here: Know the Score Resources for Post Primary Teachers - HSE.ie, and associated training is available for teachers.

In addition to this, 'Making Healthy Choices' resources for Junior Cycle SPHE are being developed. Unit 1 is currently available on the NCCA's online toolkit for SPHE to support teachers in addressing issues of alcohol, tobacco and drug use. Units 2 and 3 of this programme are due to be published in 2023.

In some areas, staff from the local HSE Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce may be willing to talk to students about issues related to drug and alcohol use in the local area, as an external resource for schools. The Department provides clear guidance to schools on

the engagement of outside speakers and on the use of external resources to assist in delivering the curriculum. These guidelines are most recently outlined in updated circular 0042/2018 for primary schools and 0043/2018 for post primary schools. Programmes delivered by visitors or external agencies must use appropriate evidence-based methodologies with clear educational outcomes.

These circulars also require that all materials proposed for use by external providers must be approved in advance by the principal and Board of Management, be age and stage appropriate for pupils and be in line with the ethos of the school, and the principles of the SPHE curriculum.

Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit

09/12/2022

Acmhainní Seachtracha – Acmhainní maidir le hAlcól

A Phríomhoide,

Dearbhaíonn an nóta seo, mar atá molta ag FSS agus an Roinn Sláinte, nach bhfuil sé oiriúnach acmhainní nó ábhair arna dtáirgeadh nó arna maoiniú ag an tionscal alcóil a úsáid don oideachas nó feasacht faoin alcól i scoileanna, nó má fhreastalaíonn múinteoirí, ar bhonn gairmiúil, ar oiliúint bhainteach a d'fhéadfadh eagraíochtaí arna maoiniú ag an tionscal alcóil a thairiscint.

Molann an Roinn Sláinte a thuilleadh go léiríonn an bhaint atá ag eagraíochtaí arna maoiniú ag an tionscal alcóil i soláthar na n-acmhainní seo i scoileanna coimhlint leasa ar leith, agus nár cheart do thionscal an alcóil a bheith i láthair i scoileanna. Molann sí go mbaineann scoileanna úsáid as foinsí eolais neamhspleácha iontaofa agus iad ag idirghabháil le daltaí faoi fhadhbanna a bhaineann leis an alcól.

Cuireann an CNCM treoirlínte ar fáil do mhúinteoirí agus iad ag roghnú acmhainní le húsáid ina gclár OSPS. Sna treoirlínte seo spreagann an CNCM múinteoirí chun bunús agus foinse maoinithe na n-acmhainní sin, chomh maith leis an mbonn fianaise a úsáideadh ina dtáirgeadh, a cheistiú. Mar shampla, má mhaoinítear acmhainní ag páirtithe le coimhlintí leasa, ar nós acmhainní alcóil arna dtáirgeadh ag Drinkaware, a mhaoinítear ag an tionscal alcóil, de réir mholadh FSS agus na Roinne Sláinte níor cheart iad a úsáid i scoileanna. Ar an mbealach céanna, tá na treoirlínte seo i bhfeidhm maidir leis na hacmhainní a mhaoinítear ag earnálacha tionscail eile a bhfuil coimhlint leasa fhéideartha ann.

Tá na treoirlínte seo ar fáil i measc fhoinsí an CNCM ar líne anseo: Ag Ullmhú don Teagasc (curriculumonline.ie).

Tá acmhainní bunaithe ar fhianaise maidir le halcól agus drugaí le haghaidh scoileanna ann, arna bhforbairt ag FSS le tacaíocht ón Roinn Oideachais agus ón gComhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta (CNCM). Is clár maidir le mí-úsáid substaintí é an clár 'Know the Score', a seoladh in 2019 le haghaidh daltaí Idirbhliana nó daltaí an 5ú bliain. Is féidir 'Know the Score' a aimsiú anseo: Tá 'Know the Score' - Acmhainní le haghaidh Múinteoirí Iar-Bhunscoile - HSE.ie agus oiliúint bhainteach ar fáil do mhúinteoirí.

Anuas air seo, tá acmhainní 'Making Healthy Choices' le haghaidh OSPS na sraithe sóisearaí á bhforbairt. Tá Aonad 1 ar fáil faoi láthair i measc fhoinsí an CNCM ar líne le haghaidh OSPS chun tacú le múinteoirí maidir le dul i ngleic le fadhbanna úsáide alcóil, tobac agus drugaí. Tá Aonad 2 agus Aonad 3 den chlár seo le foilsiú in 2023.

I gceantair áirithe, féadfaidh baill foirne áitiúla ó Thascfhórsa Drugaí agus Alcóil FSS a bheith sásta labhairt le daltaí faoi fhadhbanna a bhaineann le húsáid drugaí agus alcóil

sa cheantar áitiúil, mar acmhainn sheachtrach le haghaidh scoileanna. Cuireann an Roinn treoir shoiléir ar fáil do scoileanna maidir le fostú urlabhraithe seachtracha agus maidir le húsáid acmhainní seachtracha chun cuidiú le soláthar an churaclaim. Tá an leagan is déanaí de na treoirlínte seo leagtha amach i gciorclán 0042/2018 le haghaidh bunscoileanna agus ciorclán 0043/2018 le haghaidh iar-bhunscoileanna. Caithfidh cláir a sholáthraíonn cuairteoirí nó gníomhaireachtaí seachtracha modheolaíochtaí oiriúnacha, atá bunaithe ar fhianaise agus a bhfuil torthaí soiléire oideachasúla acu, a úsáid.

Ceanglaíonn na ciorcláin seo go gcaithfidh na hábhair ar fad a bheartaítear le húsáid ag soláthraithe seachtracha a bheith faofa roimh ré ag an bpríomhoide agus ag an mBord Bainistíochta, oiriúnach d'aois na ndaltaí agus don chéim ag a bhfuil siad agus i gcomhréir le héiteas na scoile agus le prionsabail an churaclaim OSPS.

An tAonad Polasaí Curaclaim agus Measúnaithe

09/12/2022