



## Junior Cert. Celebrations 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On behalf of Kildare Joint Policing Committee, I would like to let you know the arrangements that are in place to help keep young people safe as they celebrate their Junior Cert. results this year.

We have engaged with Bus Companies in the County, who have taken the responsibility and signed up to 'No Alcohol or Substances Allowed (NASA)' –

*If a passenger is intoxicated, suspected of being intoxicated, has been observed drinking alcohol or seen with alcohol, entry onto bus will be refused and parents/carers/Gardai will be contacted. If a passenger becomes intoxicated while on board or is seen with alcohol parents/carers/Gardai will be contacted.*

### **Have you discussed the Junior Cert. celebrations with your child?**

As a parent, you have a key role in ensuring that your child celebrates their results in a safe and responsible way. As such, we would ask you to consider the following questions over the coming weeks:

- Would you like to get a call from An Garda Síochána or Ambulance Services on the night of the Junior Cert. results?
- Do you know that if your child is arrested/detained, that it may have serious consequences for them?
- Are you aware of the start and finish time of the disco?
- Are you aware of the entrance fee for the disco?
- Have you arranged a pick-up time/point after the disco?
- Do you have an arrangement in place for if your child is refused entry, or becomes ill, or falls out with friends and needs to be picked up early?
- If your son or daughter is going on a stay over are you taking their word or do you check in with parents where they are staying?
- Are you sure that your child cannot access alcohol in your home

There are other measures in place all year round to support the young people of Co. Kildare in socialising safely and we would like to clarify those for you:

- Any young person presenting to an underage disco intoxicated is now taken inside the premises, to a 'holding room,' where they remain until their parent/guardian can come get them. If a parent cannot be contacted, the matter will be referred to An Garda Síochána. Should members of An Garda Síochána be unable to contact the young person parents/guardian, s/he will be sent to the 'designated place of safety' for the night, which is Naas/Portlaoise Hospital
- The Gardai have been working with bus operators. A young person may be asked to open their bag/coat to show the bus driver the contents before getting on. The driver has the right to refuse to carry the passenger.
- A member of An Garda Síochána can stop a young person on the street and ask for their name. If they have reason to believe that the young person has alcohol taken, they have powers to bring the young person into custody. It is the policy in Co. Kildare to do this, to ensure the safety of the young person. Once in custody, the young person can only be released to either a parent or guardian.

While we acknowledge that not every child will attend a disco to celebrate their results and the majority of those that do attend plan to do so in a fun and alcohol free way, we would ask that all parents consider these questions to ensure that everyone enjoys the junior certificate celebrations in a safe way.

Further advice to help you communicate with your child about alcohol and drugs is available by [clicking here](#).

Many thanks,

**Sonya Kavanagh**

**Director of Services**

**Kildare Joint Policing Committee**