

ST. ILLTYD'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DRUGS POLICY

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the schools' role in drug prevention and education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. The policy provides information and guidance about drug education, as well as procedures to respond to any drug-related incident, for pupils, teachers, support-staff and outside agencies or individuals.

The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole school community.

This policy aims to make clear procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents. This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport as well as school visits/trips/fieldwork/ residential etc.

Definition: "Drugs" are taken here to mean those that are legal, such as alcohol and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD etc. The school believes that the possession and or use of such drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is inappropriate. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, or while pupils are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines where appropriate.

Drug Education: The school provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

(i) The National Curriculum science order outlines the content of the *statutory* drugs education-

- Key Stage 3, 11-14 year olds are taught the abuse of smoking, alcohol, solvents, vaccinations and immunisation basics
- Key Stage 4, 14-16 year olds are taught the effects of cannabis, alcohol, tobacco in more detail, cocaine, heroine, ecstasy, LSD, steroids are taught as illegal. Vaccinations are covered in depth. Drugs against diseases – anti virals/biotics and thalidomide – the dangers of prescriptive drugs.

(ii) PSE reflects other topics that reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills: this will :

- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices
- Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- Provide accurate information about substances
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support

On the whole, it will be teachers who will teach drug education but, where appropriate, outside visitors may make a contribution. Such visitors should be used in a planned way and be their contributions evaluated. Teachers will have access to on-going advice, support and training as part of their own professional development. The school actively cooperates with agencies such as the LEA, police, health and drug agencies.

Statutory duty of the school: The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the governing body, parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies. The head teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported.

The school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug (e.g. the preparation of, or smoking of cannabis). Where it is suspected that substances are being brought onto used or sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well as much information as possible, will be passed to the police. The school operates a zero tolerance policy towards drugs.

Implementation of the policy: In incidents involving substance misuse or supply on the premises/during the school day, and following discussion with the pupil and staff, action will proceed as follows.

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with by school first aid teams. Emergency support will be sought if needed.
- In cases of drugs being brought onto school premises used or sold, during the school day or during school visits etc. the incident will be discussed with the pupil by a senior member of staff and a written account taken. Parents/carers will be informed by the school as soon as possible. Police will also be informed of the incident.
- If a pupil admits to bringing drugs onto the school premises or using or supplying drugs a senior member of staff will inform parents/carers and the police.
- The school operates a zero tolerance approach to drugs. Any pupil found to be:-
 - a) bringing drugs onto the school premises or
 - b) using drugs on the school premises or
 - c) supplying drugs on the school premises or
 - d) a combination of the abovewill be permanently excluded from St. Illtyd's Catholic High School.

Pupils, parents/carers will be offered support from the LEA and any appropriate outside agencies that would be deemed to be helpful in such incidents.

The Governing Body will be informed and involved in drug related incidents.

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