

Drugs

DRUGS AWARENESS AND EDUCATION POLICY

The policy document covers the following - illegal drugs, tobacco, alcohol and solvent abuse.

The school is committed to the following:

To provide a drug free environment.

This is achieved through having a drug awareness and education programme and to deal effectively with pupils where drug use is alleged to have taken place.

The School has pioneered a drugs education programme called RIDE. This programme was written and developed by our Police Involvement Officer and the then Head of Senior School. It is a life skills programme covering 13 weeks of teaching and has the aim of teaching our young people the skills necessary to enable them to make informed decisions concerning the use and abuse of legal and illegal drugs.

Furthermore, by teaching them how to become more confident in themselves they will be better equipped to make difficult choices, as well as being more aware of the implications their actions have on themselves and other people.

The teaching of this programme is included in our Year 7 and Year 9 curriculum.

Staff involved in the teaching of RIDE are given in-service training. Included in this training is a detailed examination of the use of legal and illegal drugs, their identification and the subsequent associated dangers. Also included is how to deal with suspected drug incidents in schools.

Action Policy regarding drug testing

The Head of School, after consultation with the SMT, may at his/her discretion ask the police or a relevant body to conduct a random drug search without giving warning to the student and parent bodies.

Action Policy following the discovery of what are believed to be illegal substances:

- If a member of staff discovers a suspected substance he or she must immediately bring this to the attention of another member of staff who will act as a witness. The substance must then be placed in a secure package and handed over to the Head of the Senior School or to the school office for safe keeping. The two members of staff involved must then write a statement stating the facts related to the discovery.
- The Head of School will listen to and read reports relating to the incident from the Year Head and staff to establish the grounds for interviewing the pupil.
- The pupil will be interviewed by the Head of School and Year Head.

- If there is believed to be a case to answer, the pupil will be isolated with a member of staff and the parent/guardian will be asked to come in to school to collect their son/daughter who will be suspended whilst further discussions and interviews take place. The Principal will be informed.
- The Head of School will prepare a report of the incident and submit to the Principal. Parents will then be contacted and called in for interview with the Principal and Head of School. The pupil concerned will be asked to attend this meeting.
- Following this interview if the school still believes that the pupil has been involved in illegal drug activity he or she will remain suspended until further discussions have taken place.
- Following these discussions parents will then be contacted to have the school's course of action explained and to allow further discussion.
- Cases proven will result in the pupil being permanently excluded from the school. The school however will support the parents in providing references and speaking to other School Heads.
- Parents will also have the right of appeal to the School's Governors.
- The Police will be informed of any incident involving the possession or use of illegal substances in school.
- Parents will be informed of any incident reported to the school (and adequately substantiated) of their child being involved in the taking and/or sharing of illegal drugs outside of school hours. Subsequent investigation may result in these pupils being suspended or permanently excluded.

Action Policy following the discovery of alcohol, tobacco or solvents:

- Pupils caught in possession of or using tobacco or alcohol will face automatic suspension.
- Pupils involved in solvent abuse will also be suspended.
- On returning to school pupils involved in the above offences will also be given community service of up to 15 hours.
- Pupils who re-offend will face permanent exclusion.

Full discussions will be held with parents/guardians following the discovery of the above substances and procedures will follow those stated in the Discipline Code.