

## Drugs Policy

The St Columban's Drugs Policy outlines the procedures and processes that are to be carried out when concerns are raised with respect to **drugs and substances**.

### Rationale

The school:

- has a statutory duty to have a policy and provide drugs education as part of the curricular provision;
- wants to ensure the Health and Safety of all staff and pupils;
- promotes positive attitudes and behaviour to help pupils resist the use and misuse of substances;

### Definitions

The terms **DRUG** and **SUBSTANCE** include any product that when taken has the effect of altering the way the body works or how a person behaves, sees or thinks.

**Substances** include:

- alcohol, tobacco and electronic cigarettes;
- over the counter medicines;
- prescribed drugs;
- volatile substances;
- controlled drugs;
- new psychoactive substances (NPS) formerly known as legal highs; These substances are not regulated and there is no way of knowing what they contain; The term legal high is misleading;

**Controlled substances** are legally classified. The Misuse of Drugs Act sets out a range of substances controlled under the act.

**Drug Use:** refers to taking a drug;

**Drug Misuse:** is taking drugs, including prescribed drugs and NPS that cause harm to the individual, their significant others or wider community;

### Aims and objectives

- The school exercises zero tolerance with respect to the presence of drugs and illegal substances on school premises. This constitutes a serious breach of the school rules and could ultimately result in expulsion.
- All staff must report any suspicions and concerns to the Designated Teacher, Deputy Designated Teacher as in line with the Child Protection and Pastoral Care guidelines.
- Disciplinary and Pastoral Care responses will be as set out in the policies.
- The school and staff **can never guarantee confidentiality** in drug incidents and must pass on any information about suspected criminal activity to outside agencies eg PSNI, EA, CCMS

- The school delivers a drug education programme as part of personal development.
- Outsides agencies are invited to raise pupil awareness (with parental permission) and staff awareness with respect to drugs.

#### **GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH DRUG RELATED INCIDENT**

1. Unknown substance/paraphernalia in school
2. Inform Designated Teacher , principal etc
3. Make safe for pupils and staff
4. Remove and store items in a safe secure place
5. Contact parents and PSNI if required
6. Take statements, investigate and record on Drugs Incident Form
7. Disciplinary procedure – decide on disciplinary/ pastoral measures
8. Board of Governors

#### **INCIDENT INVOLVING PUPIL(S) WHO ARE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS**

1. Inform principal /designated teacher
2. Isolate pupil; if pupil unconscious place in recovery position; dial 999
3. Find out substance involved-if possible
4. Contact doctor, hospital, parents as appropriate
5. Contact PSNI
6. Write a detailed report of the incident using the Drug Incident Form
7. Disciplinary procedure- decide on disciplinary/ pastoral measure
8. Board of Governors

No guidelines are full proof. At all times the safety of the pupil(s) and staff are paramount. In each incident cool heads are required to ensure the safety of all.

**Designated Teacher: Mr P Hannon; Deputy Designate: Mr G Jones**

Policy reviewed annually in conjunction with Child protection Policy. Effective December 15

#### **Appendices**

**Appendix 1 HANDLING DRUG RELATED INCIDENT.**

**Appendix 2 Pupils SUSPECTED OF HAVING TAKEN DRUGS/ALCOHOL.**

**Appendix 3 PUPIL SUSPECTED OF POSSESSING/DISTRIBUTING ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE.**

**Appendix 4 PUPIL IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL OR UNAUTHORISED PRESCRIBED MEDICATION IN SCHOOL.**

**Appendix 5 A PARENT/CARER UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR OTHER SUBSTANCE.**

**Appendix 6 DRUGS INCIDENT REPORT FORM.**

**\*\*Links to Child Protection, Discipline and Pastoral Care policies.**