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## **Drugs Policy**

Approved December 2017

**All school policies are reviewed by Governors annually**

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### **Aims and Objectives**

Students will follow a programme of study during Personal, Social, Citizenship, Health and Economic wellbeing Education (PSCHEE) time that will equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to make informed choices about drug related issues. This will be independent of, but complemented by, work done in Science and Religious Studies.

The programme of study is designed to enable students to:

- Develop decision-making skills
- Be self-confident, able to understand and cope with peer pressure
- Be aware of the Law relating to drugs, their use and misuse
- Increase their understanding and knowledge of the situations in which drugs are used – both legally and illegally
- Acquire accurate information about substances
- Be aware of the vocabulary and terminology associated with drugs and drugs misuse
- Develop responsible attitudes towards the use of drugs and be aware that although many people misuse drugs for short term gratification and pleasure, inevitably there are serious and long-term harmful effects of such misuse
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- Know from where they can access support/advice services.

The programme of study will arise naturally from the school's desire to further students' awareness of health and fitness issues. The emphasis will be on developing skills and positive attitudes among students, building self-esteem and an understanding of self-worth.

Activities will be appropriate to the age and maturity of students and will allow for suitable differentiation to suit students of all abilities. There will be an emphasis on active learning and a variety of approaches, including role-play, group discussion and the use of audio-visual material.

The majority of the programme of study delivered during PSCHEE is by an outside agency – InfoBuzz. They are an independent charity helping young people negotiate their transition to adulthood by providing accurate information on drugs and alcohol and by providing learning opportunities that focus on the development of personal and social skills.

### **Organisation of the school drugs programme**

The Head of PSCHEE holds a responsibility for the planning and delivery of the PSCHEE programme of study, including the programme of study on drugs. The responsibility includes the acquisition and evaluation of resources in discussion with other leaders (Head of Science, Head of RS, Pastoral Heads).

Resources are chosen on the basis of their suitability, relevance and accuracy. They must prove useful in the context of the active learning methods and informal approaches most often used in PSCH EE.

There is extensive participation by visiting speakers, specialists and outside agencies in the drugs' programme.

### **The School's response to substance misuse**

#### **Inclusive definition of drugs**

The school defines a drug as a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, tobacco substitutes, solvents, medicines and substances sometimes referred to as 'legal highs'.

#### **Tobacco**

The possession or smoking of tobacco (or electronic cigarettes, 'vaping' machines or tobacco substitutes) (or being part of a group when this is taking place) whilst on site, in uniform or while involved in a School/Centre activity is not permitted.

The Ladder of Consequences outlines clearly the sanctions put in place for smoking offences:

1<sup>st</sup> offence – after-school detention

2<sup>nd</sup> offence – SLT detention

3<sup>rd</sup> offence – fixed term exclusion

*Exceptions to this are certain occasions in the Sixth Form calendar when under staff supervision the law would not be contravened.*

#### **Alcohol**

Possessing, consuming or being under the influence of alcohol whilst on site, in uniform, or while involved in a School/Centre activity, is not permitted.

Offenders are likely to receive a fixed-term exclusion.

*Exceptions to this are certain occasions in the Sixth Form calendar when under staff supervision the law would not be contravened.*

#### **Other Drugs**

The use and abuse of illegal substances is against the law and is therefore against school rules. Our PSCH EE programme addresses the issues and attempts to highlight the positive importance of a healthy life-style.

Anyone caught supplying drugs whilst on site, in uniform, or while involved in a School/Centre activity will automatically be reported to parents and police. Permanent exclusion may be an appropriate sanction.

Anyone involved in using drugs whilst on site, in uniform, or while involved in a School/Centre activity will automatically be reported to both parents and police. Each individual case will require significant consideration, with regard to the balance of support and sanction. Possessing, consuming or being under the influence of drugs whilst on site, in uniform, or while involved in a School/Centre activity, is likely to incur a fixed term exclusion.

However, within this context, the school will consider each incidence of substance misuse individually and recognises that a variety of responses are necessary. The school will seek to balance the interests of any students misusing substances with those of the other members of the school and also members of the local community. Permanent exclusion may be an appropriate sanction.