



**POLICY ON ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO**

The college's mission is to help the personal, social and academic development of the 16-19 year-olds in its care: the policy on illegal substances, alcohol and tobacco is based on such educational principles.

1. Drugs Education: the college recognises the need to keep both staff and students aware of the great dangers of substance abuse (including alcohol and tobacco): this is addressed particularly in the annual cycle of Personal Tutor in-service training and is an item on the suggested agenda for the tutorial curriculum. Tutors will continue to attend courses and workshops outside college and feed back to team meetings. Teaching materials are regularly reviewed and updated, and are available for all tutors to use, at their discretion, after negotiation with tutor groups. (We are aware that drugs education has been pursued to different extents across the range of our feeder schools, and so students' prior learning can differ greatly: this must be acknowledged within our pastoral curriculum.)
2. The college recognises an educational responsibility relative to alcohol and tobacco. The college is a 'no smoking' site. Students must not bring alcohol onto the premises: we also regard consumption off-site during the day as inappropriate. Problems will be dealt with on an individual basis.
3. 'Incidents': the college strives to stay within the current local guidelines for dealing with incidents involving students.
4. Where an individual is found in possession of a classified substance, the college will confiscate and destroy the substance, having noted this in a drug incident log. The individual will be temporarily excluded from college, their parents will be contacted, and we will negotiate appropriate 'sanctions' - these could include counselling, 'grounding', working with outside agencies such as Lifeline or other constructive mechanisms - before the student will be allowed to resume studies. Similar procedures would be followed if there were a firm suspicion of possession on college premises.
5. A second occurrence would lead to permanent exclusion from college. Depending on circumstances, the college reserves the option to inform the police.
6. Where the incident is more serious, say supplying, or class A abuse, the student could be instantly excluded. Dealing is seen as a danger to other students and any student engaging in this activity in college - directly or indirectly - would be seen as a danger to others, and would be reported to the police.
7. Procedures pertaining to situations where staff are implicated in illegal substance incidents are detailed in the Staff Personnel Procedures.

In conclusion: our principal mission is to educate, so where the problem is primarily a danger to the individual, we will seek to do what will best help the individual: where it constitutes a danger to others, we will endeavour to protect the majority, hence a division between supportive and punitive/preventative measures.

Approved by the Policy committee      November 2009

Approved by the Corporation      December 2009

***“This policy has been impact assessed to ensure it complies with all aspects of Equality and Diversity. Members are reassured that this policy is compliant with current equality legislation”.***

Policy Owner: Sue Creamer – Vice Principal