

St Bede's Catholic College



Policy when responding to drug related incidents

POLICY WHEN RESPONDING TO DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

All adults who work with young people are concerned about the harm drugs can cause, their easy availability and the consequent increase in their use amongst young people. While the great majority of occasions when young people experiment with drugs will be during their leisure time, there are instances when drugs are brought into college communities and in such circumstances these will always be responded to in accordance with the outlined procedures.

Rationale

This policy covers the use of illegal substances and the misuse of prescribed drugs, as defined in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, amended 2018. It also covers the use or misuse of other substances such as alcohol, legal highs and smoking including e-cigarettes, amongst others.

Any involvement with illegal substances (drugs) is a criminal offence. The misuse of substances such as Nitrous Oxide is also a criminal offence. We regard

- (a) the possession of,
- (b) the use of,
- (c) the dealing in (supplying)

any such substance to be extremely serious offences and against the code of discipline of the college. Governors will respond to use of, or supplying legal highs in the same manner as those substances which are currently classed as illegal drugs.

No such substance should ever be brought into college.

Procedure

1. (i) Any pupil who **supplies** an illegal substance (drug) or a legal high to another pupil during the course of the college day, on a college organised activity or at any other time when the authority of the college pertains, will be permanently excluded (expelled) from St Bede's subject to the relevant procedures.

(ii) Any pupil who has **used** an illegal substance (drug) or a legal high during the course of the college day on a college organised activity or at any other time when the authority of the college pertains, may be permanently excluded (expelled) from St Bede's subject to the relevant procedures.

(iii) Any pupil who is in **possession** of an illegal substance (drug) or a legal high during the course of the college day, on a college-organised activity or at any time when the authority of the college pertains, may be permanently excluded (expelled) from St Bede's, subject to the relevant procedures.
2. Any pupil who is in possession of, used or supplied drugs, legal or otherwise, whilst in the authority of the college will be referred to the Police.
3. Smoking tobacco or electronic cigarettes on the school premises, or on any school related activity, is prohibited and will be responded to in accordance with our Disciplinary Policy.

4. At the time of any drug-related instance, support will be given to obtain medical or other advice in the interest of the pupils' health and safety. In all such circumstances parents will be recommended to inform their GP and will be given further advice regarding organisations which may assist.
5. We will provide a range of drug-related information and education and our response to drug related issues during assemblies, tutorials and through the Personal Social Education Health and Citizenship Programme.
6. In-Service training on drug-related issues will be made available to staff on a regular basis.
7. When information is received that a pupil may be associated with activity involving drugs outside college, this pupil will be seen by a senior member of staff and informed of the consequences to health of such activity and of the college's response to drugs. Parents will also be informed when such intelligence is brought to our attention.
8. Any pupil on whom information is received about drug use outside college will be subjected to monitoring and regular checks. The Police may be involved if a pupil refuses to turn out his/her bags or pockets etc. during an investigation into drug possession.
9. Pupils will be made aware of the fact that sharing drugs with others is in effect **supplying** in law, whether or not money is paid for that drug.
10. We will review regularly the implementation of the Drugs Policy and parents and pupils will be informed of any substantial changes.
11. It is important that any pupil who has been known to be involved in drugs is closely monitored if a transfer between schools occurs. Confidential information will be shared in order to ensure the most positive opportunities for a pupil starting at a new school.
12. The college will provide in-house information on all drug related matters which pupils may access privately.

This policy will be displayed on our website for parental information.

Other Substances

The misuse of prescribed drugs, solvents or chemicals is extremely hazardous to health and involvement in such activity is regarded as a serious offence against the code of discipline of the College. Young people should not have any such substance in their possession in school, with the intention of misuse. The misuse of such substances on any occasion where the authority of the College pertains will be responded to in accordance with our disciplinary procedures.

This policy has been drawn up following consultation with staff and governors and will be revised regularly.

Updated January 2019
To be reviewed January 2021