



DRUGS POLICY

Public Sector Equality Duty

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for those with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

INTRODUCTION

St Peter's School is a Catholic Christian community, and recognises its responsibility to cater for the academic, physical, spiritual and moral development of each Student.

The school also recognises that its students come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and thus the school reflects Society at large.

The school believes that it has a duty to support Parent(s)/Carer(s), as the prime educators, in the task of preparing their children for adult life. This preparation involves not only instilling solid Christian values, but also the development of Life-Skills. The school understands that Society today offers a variety of values and lifestyles, many of them at variance with Christian values; and thus, all Students must be enabled to make wise choices based on full and accurate information.

St Peter's has always aimed to be a Drug-Free zone, and it will do its utmost to ensure that it remains so and as such the school has a zero tolerance to the possession of drugs on or beyond* school premises. However, the School is aware that from time to time it will be faced with drug instances affecting its students, both inside and outside of the school. This Policy makes clear the school's aim in educating Students about drugs, setting in place procedures that will be followed should instances of drug misuse arise, and also provide a statement of current drug education in the school.

This Policy sets out the school's expectations of its students with regard to the use or supply of drugs, and other substances such as but not limited to, alcohol, solvents and nicotine products including cigarettes, vapes or e-cigarettes and snus.

Drugs and substances means controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs or substances intended to resemble drugs, or "legal" drugs which can be obtained from a chemist shop, performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue and other substances held or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse.

This policy covers the possession, use and supply of such substances. The school is aware that some substances which are not illegal may have an intoxicating, and/or stimulating and/or hallucinating effect.

The use of animal, mineral or vegetable products which have such an effect is against School rules and pupils misusing such substances (including possession or supply of such substances) may be dealt with in a similar fashion to those who use illegal substances.

POLICY STATEMENT

The School aims to educate its Students regarding drugs and their effects, within the Curriculum.

The School accepts the definition of a drug as "A chemical substance that alters the way in which the mind or body works".

POSSESSION OF AND/OR UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS

It is highly likely the bringing in of **illegal** substances to School or beyond* school premises (such as Cannabis) either for personal use or to share with others (or supply) and/or the possession of drugs paraphernalia, such as grinders and bongs, **will** result in permanent exclusion. (This also applies to any student who is found to be under the influence of an illegal substance.)

The bringing in of **legal** substances to School or beyond* school premises (such as alcohol or nicotine) either for personal use or to share with others (or supply) may result in permanent exclusion. This is at the discretion of the Headteacher taking into account (but not limited to) the effect on the individual and/or other students, number of occurrences and the volume of substances(s).

Such action will reflect the fact that St Peter's School will neither compromise the safety of its Students nor accept the erosion of its values.

The School aims to provide a safe, caring environment for all its Students. As an educating community it acknowledges that Young People sometimes make poor decisions, sometimes as a result of pressures or due to circumstances outside of their control. Therefore, any action taken will take into account the situation of the individual. At its discretion, the School may involve external agencies such as drug advice centers, or the Police, to assist with the reintegration into the School community of any Students involved in such an incident, if appropriate.

SUPPLY OF DRUGS

In addition to a permanent exclusion being highly likely any instance of supply of illegal drugs on or beyond* the school premises, or in any situation, in which the student is representing the school, will be reported to the Police.

SEARCHING STUDENTS

The school has the power to search students for (and confiscate) items including alcohol, knives and other weapons, controlled drugs, stolen property, pornography, tobacco, and fireworks (DFE: The Importance of Teaching 3:10).

*“Beyond” is defined as but not limited to:

- a) Including during the journey to or from School
- b) Any time during the school day including lunchtime
- c) During any school trip, holiday, class or any other extra curricula activity
- d) In any situation whereby the student is representing the school in any event or is involved in any school activity.

Updated: April 2024