

Drugs/Substance Policy

June 2018

St Cuthbert's Catholic High School is committed to the health and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. The possession, use or supply of drugs in the school context, (which is defined as on school premises or during any school activity and/ in school uniform) is totally forbidden. Any such instance will be viewed as an extremely serious disciplinary matter. Staff should ensure that all cases of misuse of drugs, or suspected misuse are reported to the Headteacher and recorded on the appropriate forms.

In all instances involving substance misuse, possession or supply on the school's premises or misuse or supply during any school activity, parents/carers will be informed as soon as practically possible.

The school will consider each drug related incident separately and consider the appropriate response, bearing in mind the circumstances of the case, and the need to balance the interests of the student concerned as well as the effect on the entire school body.

The Governing Body considers that it is essential that parents and students are clear about the expected/usual sanction that will be applied in particular instances, as follows:

- A student who supplies any drugs or other solvents/harmful substances (whether legal or illegal and regardless of the seriousness of the use) in the school context will, except in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Discipline Committee of Governors be permanently excluded as will the student in possession.

There is a planned Drugs Education Programme in place to:

- Inform students about drugs and their effects
- Promote a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle
- Increase students' understanding of the health and social implications of the use and misuse of drugs.

The Governing Body will review this policy annually.