



## **Substance Misuse Policy**

### **Introduction**

***Our Mission is to develop the whole person in a Catholic learning community, to provide a loving Christian environment and to strive for excellence, equality, justice and fairness.***

At St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School we aim for our young people to be:

- strong and committed in faith
- confident of their personal worth
- active in response to Christ's call to care for others
- responsible members of society

Hence we strive to:

- achieve excellence in all aspects of our life and work
- foster the spiritual growth of each member of our community
- create a happy and successful learning environment
- develop the full potential of each individual
- prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- work in partnership with home, parish and the wider community

Fundamental to our Catholic School's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

This policy covers the use of illegal substances and the misuse of prescribed drugs/ medicines as defined in the *Misuse of Drugs Act 1971*. It also covers the misuse of legal substances.

We believe and support the following educational aims in support of substance use and misuse:

- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge and challenging attitudes that are not helpful or healthy
- To provide accurate information about substances
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support



Refer also to the *Excellent Behaviour at St Bernadette's Policy*

## Guidelines

Substance misuse education is taught across the curriculum. The School makes use of outside agencies and education support when required. As with all aspects of the pastoral curriculum we endeavor to give our pupils knowledge, understanding and skills so that they can develop appropriate attitudes.

The purpose of the school substance misuse policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to substance misuse for staff, pupils, parents/carers and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage drugs and other substances on school premises and where the school's authority pertains, as well as any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effective management of incidents involving illegal and other drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies

## Responding to Substance Misuse in School:

### Procedures regarding legal substances:

Each case will be judged on its circumstances but it is likely that:

The procedures for dealing with the misuse of legal substances, which may or may not have age restrictions, are covered by the general school rules. Pupils caught misusing these substances will be subject to disciplinary action and the parent/carer will automatically be informed. The items will be confiscated immediately if found on the pupil. The items cannot be returned to the pupil.

The disciplinary action that could be taken range from detentions, isolation, fixed term exclusion or permanent exclusion. All fixed term and permanent exclusions are the decision of the Headteacher. *The action taken will depend on the circumstances of the incident.*

### Procedures regarding illegal substances:

Each case will be judged on its circumstances but it is likely that:

- Any pupil caught in possession of illegal substances in school or drug paraphernalia, during a school



organised activity or at any other time when the authority of the school pertains, will be subject to disciplinary action. The parent/ carer will always be informed and the case may be referred to the police.

Action taken will be *dependent on the individual circumstances of the incident*.

- Any pupil who is proven to have supplied an illegal or harmful legal substance to another pupil during the school day, during a school organised activity or at any other time when the authority of the school pertains, will be subject to disciplinary action. The parent/ carer will always be informed and the case will be referred to the police. The items will be confiscated immediately if found on the pupil. The items cannot be returned to the pupil and if they are illegal in nature may be passed to the police for destruction.

### Pastoral Care and Support for pupils at risk:

Within the School's general pastoral and safeguarding arrangements consideration is given to the provision of appropriate counselling and support for individuals and groups of pupils to help them deal with issues that relate to any concerns. This support is drawn from help and support in school and outside agencies.