

## **Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College**

### **Drugs (Substances) & Education Policy**

All students are created in the image of God. They have the same nature and origin and God lives within each. Thus students are guided in living their lives which will respect the dignity of God within and in a manner which will enable them to be fully creative and productive in all the work they undertake in their lives. Based upon this philosophy consumption of drugs and misuse of other substances including alcohol, legal highs and tobacco are not tolerated in the college

For the purpose of this policy a drug is a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. This includes:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All illegal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (which are especially dangerous, causing, on average, a young person's death each week) khat and "poppers" (alkyl nitrites)
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines
- All legal highs

The possession, use or supply of illegal or other unauthorised drugs within college boundaries and on the way to and home from college is unacceptable. The response of the college will balance the needs of the individual with those of the college and will aim to provide students with the support and guidance necessary to learn from their mistakes and develop as individuals.

### **Investigation Incidence**

The Principal is the member of staff with designated responsibility for drugs related incidents. Senior or Middle Leaders will always gather all appropriate information relating to the incident, making sure that it is accurately recorded and passed on to the Principal.

- The suspected substance will be removed from the location in the presence of a witness. If there is no witness, the substance should be removed without delay and taken to the Principal sealed in a plastic bag and stored securely.
- The police should be notified without delay who will collect it, and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The college will inform the police of the identity of the student(s).
- If a student is, or is thought to be, in possession of a suspect substance the student will be asked to empty his or her pockets or bag voluntarily with a witness present. Where consent is refused the police will be called. Any search will be conducted in such a way as to minimise potential embarrassment and distress.

Staff may search college property such as lockers and desks, but, although prior consent will always be sought, individuals will be made aware that the college may wish to proceed with a search if it is considered necessary.

- It is legal to confiscate an illegal drug or banned substance to prevent a further offence being committed any will be destroyed or handed to the police.

### **Action Assessment**

The Principal and Care, Support and Guidance staff in the college with parents and outside agencies will determine what action is required to support any student involved in drug misuse.

When assessing the needs of the student involved, consideration will be given to the following aspects:

- Age of student
- Motive and intent
- Previous record regarding use of drugs
- Personal circumstances
- Their knowledge and understanding of college rules
- Their understanding of their situation

### **College Response**

When deciding upon a response to the incident, the impact on the whole college community must be taken into consideration.

The action agreed will take into account the college's behavioural and discipline policy and the health, safety and well being of the individual and whole college community.

These may include:

- Early intervention
- Counselling
- Inter-agency work
- Pastoral support programme
- Managed move
- Fixed term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion

A student will be permanently excluded for supplying and/or selling illegal substances in the college.

The details of this policy will be communicated to parents in the College Prospectus.

The college will consider a referral to the Worcestershire young person's substance misuse agency "SPACE".

- The level of co-operation shown by the young person involved in the incident will be taken into account when determining a response. A refusal to co-operate, such as with a search, particularly in cases of alleged possession or supply, will indicate a level of concern on the part of the college which will normally result in contact with parents, and may involve the police. Students will be made aware of this.

### **Drugs and Substances Education**

The education of students concerning illegal drugs, harmful, substances including solvents, alcohol and tobacco are covered in the Schemes of Work for Science, Physical Education, Personal Social, Health Education and Religious Education. As part of the Care, Support and Guidance programme external speakers and presenters visit the college to raise the knowledge and awareness of students of matters relating to drugs and harmful consumption or over consumption of other substances.

Students are also encouraged to develop skills in saying "No" and also how to deal with situations that will confront them outside and maybe in college.

The college through its curriculum programme seeks to ensure that students have full knowledge of what may be harmful to students' physical, mental and spiritual development and in accordance with its mission statement to provide "a safe, supportive and moral environment" and "to prepare our students to make a worthwhile contribution to society".

**This policy was reviewed and ratified by Governors on:**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Peter McHugh – Chairman to the Board of Governors**