

DRUGS POLICY

Curriculum

Drugs education is addressed through relevant aspects of the Science curriculum and is a whole school issue involving all staff thereby ensuring a coherent approach.

The Drugs Education programme aims to encourage pupils to be aware of external pressures and look at strategies enabling the individual to take responsibility for his/her own decisions thereby reflecting the importance of self-esteem. Students will learn an understanding of the effect and nature of drugs and their possible effects on the user linked to an understanding of the law in relation to drugs and drug taking.

The outline of the dangers of drug involvement will embrace:

- The physical dangers involved in consuming certain substances
- The legal dangers of committing what amounts to criminal acts
- The social dangers of involvement with the criminal drug fraternity

Pastoral Approach

Factors that will be considered are:

- The age of the pupil concerned
- Whether incidents occurred inside or outside Pattison College
- The nature of the drug
- Whether the pupil involved is using or dealing in illegal substances

Where a pupil is suspected of being involved in the use / abuse of substances, or is associating with others who might bring him/her into contact with illegal drugs, the Head of Senior School will meet with the Principal to inform her of the nature of the concerns.

The Principal will subsequently make immediate contact with the pupil's parents to make them aware of the causes for concern. Parents will be reminded of the School's policy on drugs. Where appropriate, the Principal will contact the police.

At all times, reference will be made to relevant guidance related to the management of Drug related incidents in schools. The Head of Senior School and other relevant personnel will have training and specific responsibility to ensure consistent application of this policy within Pattison College.

The Principal should be informed immediately of any drugs related matters. Individual staff must pass on concerns as outlined above and NOT attempt to deal with incidents on their own.

Sanctions

Relevant legislation and guidelines issued will be considered. **The Principal reserves the right to recommend the expulsion of any pupil involved in drug related activities. The bringing of any illegal substance onto School grounds, premises or on a school activity will lead to an automatic recommendation of expulsion.**

In coming to a decision the Principal will always consider:

- The welfare of other members of the school community
- The welfare of the pupil in question.
- In making a recommendation the Principal will consult with the appropriate members of staff, in particular, the Head of Senior School.

Signed:

Principal and Proprietor

Date: September 2016