

# ILLEGAL DRUGS POLICY



## **PREAMBLE**

The problem facing our society in relation to the trade in and consumption of illegal drugs is of great concern. We at St Columba College clearly see responsibility to our students and families lies in ensuring to the best of our ability that students at our College remain free of contact from illegal drugs. As such, we offer a comprehensive health curriculum which includes a section based on drug education. In addition to curriculum, other key guidelines have been established, which are aimed at supporting students decision making in relation to drug use. The College reserves the right to cancel the enrolment of any student found to be in possession of, selling or sharing illegal drugs/substances.

### **1. Aims**

- To provide a safe, healthy and caring environment for students.
- To ensure that adequate curriculum is taught in relation to drug education.
- To maintain an 'illegal drug free' environment.

### **2. Definition of an Illegal Drug / Substance**

Any drug or substance which is classified as illegal by State Authorities, and those other drugs/substances which are considered illegal to sell to minors, or obtain without a prescription.

### **3. Pastoral Care of Students and Families**

Every effort will be made to involve College Counsellors and/or Chaplains and other support agencies in seeking positive outcomes for individual students and their families where illegal drugs have become an issue.

However, the College has a duty of care to all its students. Therefore, in determining the final outcome for students involved in possessing illegal substances, the good of the whole must be of prime importance.

### **4. Role of College Council**

- Ensure that a Drugs Policy and Guidelines are in place.
- Review the Drugs Policy and Guidelines on a regular basis.
- Support the Principal in ensuring that resources are in place to support the Drugs Policy.

### **5. Role of the Principal**

- Ensure that the Drugs Policy and Guidelines are implemented appropriately within the College.
- Provide information to students, staff and parents in relation to the procedures contained within the Drugs Policy.
- Review the policy and guidelines from time to time with the College Executive – providing direction to the College Council.

### **6. Role of Staff**

- Ensure that the Drugs Policy and Guidelines are understood and implemented where appropriate.
- Provide information to students in relation to the Drugs Policy and Guidelines.
- Actively engage with the student Pastoral Care program to ensure that excellent information is given to students about issues relating to inappropriate drug use or use of illegal drugs.



## **7. Responsibility of Students**

- Participate actively in the health curriculum and in pastoral care lessons.
- Abide by the College Drugs Policy and Procedures.
- Act in a responsible manner, taking on a responsible attitude for their own health and well being and the communities' health and well being.
- Report suspected or actual use of drugs by other students to a responsible adult.
- Report any behaviour by 'others', or places outside of the College that student's access, which may be considered dangerous to students in relation to accessing illegal substances.

## **8. Role of Parents**

- Actively engage with their child in promoting a positive drug free environment.
- Report to the College Principal any concerns relating to student use of illegal substances.
- Support the Illegal Drugs Policy and Guidelines.

## **9. Illegal Drugs/Substances**

1. Actions for the Principal (or the Principal's nominee i.e. Head of Section) in relation to a student suspected of having an illegal substance:
  - Initiate an investigation of the source of the suspicion; this may include the Principal directing another member of the Executive to carry out the initial investigation.
  - Discussion with the student in the presence of his/her teacher and/or the Head of Section.
  - Contacting of the parent(s) and make arrangements for a meeting, if warranted.
2. Actions for the Principal in relation to students found possessing and/or using an illegal substance:
  - Make a mandated report to the appropriate State Authority.
  - Notify police and other appropriate authorities.
  - Notify the student's parents.
  - Discussion with the student(s) concerned.
  - Possible external suspension of the student until all investigations have been carried out and/or completed. Pastoral care of the student during this time to be of high priority.
  - Possible cancellation of the student's enrolment at the College should the student be proven to be in possession of an illegal substance (after consultation with the Chair of the Council).
3. Actions for the Principal in relation to students proven to be selling or sharing drugs with other students:
  - All steps as in Recommendation 2.
  - Cancellation of enrolment.

## **10. Substances which are illegal for minors or injurious to health**

1. Actions for the Principal (or Principal's nominee i.e. Head of Section) in relation to a student suspected of possessing an illegal substance:
  - Full investigation of the source of the suspicion.
  - Discussion with the student concerned in the presence of his/her teacher and/or the Head of Section.
  - Contacting of the student's parent(s).



2. For students found to be in the possession of or the sharing of substances illegal to minors:
  - o Notification of appropriate agencies.
  - o Notification of the student's parents.
  - o Possible suspension from school (for a period up to a week). Pastoral Care to be taken into account.
  - o Possible cancellation of the students' enrolment at the College.