

Fundamental to the schools' values and practise is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of young people with parents, keeping them informed and involved at all times.

Effective communication and co-operation is essential in the successful implementation of the Drugs Policy.

The school is committed to the health and safety of everyone here and will work together with parents and the local community to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices and discourage misuse of Substances.

Names of contacts within the school

#### DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

- Mr Frank Hughes

#### DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR CHILD PROTECTION

- Mrs Joanne O'Neill

#### DEPUTY DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR CHILD PROTECTION

- Mrs Mary Nethercott (RE)

#### Sanctions

Sanctions of appropriate severity will be applied to the intentional misuse of any substances by any member of the school on the school premises or while on school trips or visits.

Sanctions, up to and including exclusion, will be applied to

- Possession of any substance with the suspected intention of misuse
- Misuse of substances on school premises or while on school related activities
- Possession with intent to supply and/or supply controlled drugs

It is the school policy that in all cases guidance will be given to pupils and parents on the availability of specialist advice from the relevant support agencies.

#### SOURCES OF ADVICE AND SUPPORT

- The Aisling Centre, Enniskillen – Tel: 028 66 325811
- Find, Enniskillen - Tel: 02866 323722  
[www.thefindcentre.com](http://www.thefindcentre.com)
- Breakthru - Tel: 0808 800 2020 [www.breakthru.co.uk](http://www.breakthru.co.uk)
- Daisy - Tel: 02890 435815 [www.daisy.uk.net](http://www.daisy.uk.net)
- Western Drug & Alcohol Co-ordination Team  
Tel: 02882 253950 [www.westernifh.org/wdact/site](http://www.westernifh.org/wdact/site)
- National Drugs Helpline - Tel: 0800 776600  
[www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)



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Enniskillen BT74 6DE**

**Tel: 028 6632 2935  
Fax: 028 6632 5128**

**Email: [office@saintmichaels.org.uk](mailto:office@saintmichaels.org.uk)**

# St Michael's College Enniskillen



## SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

**INFORMATION LEAFLET  
FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

## POLICY ON SUBSTANCE MISUSE

### Principles: Prevention and Protection

(a) The College recognises that substance misuse is a major threat to the health and well-being of pupils, their families and the wider community.

(b) St Michael's College is committed to assisting all pupils develop the confidence, attitudes and social skills necessary to enable them to resist the pressures and influences which could lead to substance misuse.

(c) The College will therefore ensure that drugs education will be provided for all students via the Personal Development Programme, Religious Education Programme, Healthy Schools Initiative, Science Education Programme, and, where practical, through all areas of the curriculum.

(d) For the protection of young people, the College has a Substance Misuse Policy in place which sets out how the school will fulfil all its responsibilities in relation to drugs.

It is the policy of St Michael's College, Enniskillen to keep the premises free from illegal substances and to protect students while under care of the school.

**The school is implementing the guidelines put forward by the Department of Education in its circular 2004/9. Consequently, where there is reasonable belief that a pupil is in possession of an illicit substance, either on his person or in his belongings, or where illicit substances are found on the school premises, or if there is any doubt about the nature of the substance, the parent(s)/guardian(s) or pupil(s) involved will be notified. The school has a duty under law to report any incidents or suspected incidents involving controlled (illegal) drugs to the PSNI.**

### What is a Drug?

A drug can be defined as 'any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.'

As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- Alcohol and tobacco;
- 'over the counter' medicines, such as paracetamol
- prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics, inhalers, Ritalin and tranquillisers;
- volatile substances, such as glues, correcting fluids/thinners, gas lighter fuel, aerosols and petrol;
- controlled drugs, such as cannabis, LSD, Ecstasy, amphetamine sulphate (speed), magic mushrooms (processed) heroin and cocaine;
- other substances such as amyl/butyl nitrite ('poppers') and unprocessed magic mushrooms.

### Rationale

Current research indicates that substance use both legal and illegal is rising amongst young people. As part of the school's care and welfare of its pupils we believe we have a duty to inform and educate young people about drug use. Drugs are a reality in young people's lives and schools share responsibility with parents and the community to educate pupils about the risks and consequences of substance use and misuse and to encourage them to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge and challenging attitudes. We also believe that the misuse of any substances by members of the school community cannot be condoned and will be dealt with consistently and clearly with regard to the needs of the school and the individuals concerned. Fundamental to the school's values and practise is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of young people with parents, keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

### St Michael's College has a Substance Misuse Policy

The central principle is that every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm.

Fundamental to dealing with incidents, or suspected incidents, of substances misuse (including possession) is the principle that the College has a duty of care towards its pupils and that it's primary concern is the well-being and safety of all pupils and staff in its charge.

### Through comprehensive drug education; the school seeks to:

- give students accurate information about drugs and their effect
- encourage responsible behaviour in relation to substance misuse
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles

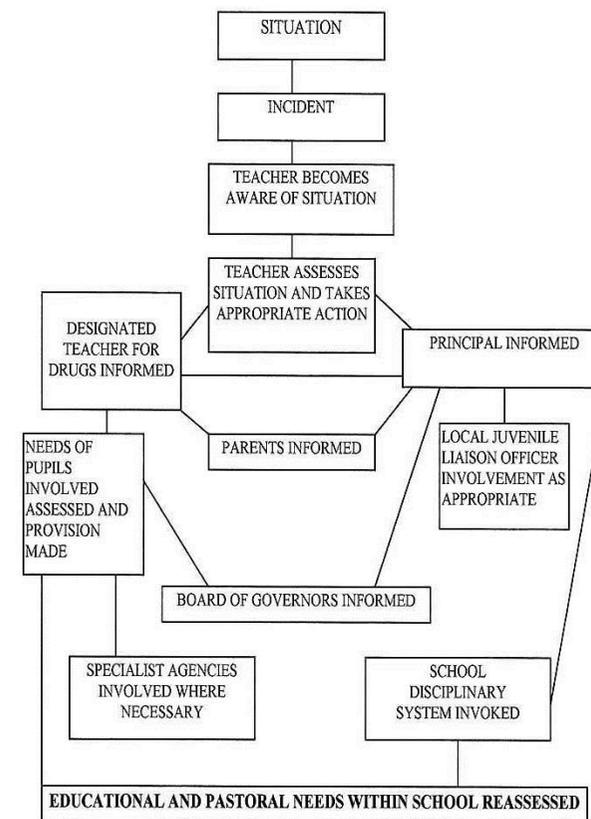
Parents and schools have a responsibility to educate and equip young people.

Parents/Guardians may request details on the content of the Drugs Education Programme for each year group from the Designated Teacher for Drugs Education Policy.

**This leaflet is a summary of St Michael's Substance Misuse Policy. A copy of the Substance Misuse Policy is available on request.**

**St Michael's substance misuse policy aims to ensure that clear guidance is available on incidents of substance misuse on school premises or while on school trips or visits.**

**In all cases, the action that will be taken in St. Michael's College is outlined below.**



**Where a pupil discloses to a teacher or other member of staff that he/she is taking drugs, the staff member shall make it clear to the pupil that he/she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality - given the seriousness of Substance misuse.**