



SCHOOL

POLICY

Policy Name:	Drugs/Substance Abuse
Review date:	January 24
Date to be reviewed:	January 27
Agreed by the BOG on:	January 21
Policies which are linked to this policy:	Pastoral Care Policy Discipline and Positive Behaviour Policy Safeguarding Policy

Integrated Education has been one of the most significant social developments within Northern Ireland in the last 40 years. Priory wears its Integrated ethos and practice with pride. Integration is prioritised by school leadership and is led by the Principal, BOGs and a drive team, under the leadership of the newly appointed Integration Co-ordinator. The four core principles of integrated education - **equality, faith and values, parental involvement** and **social responsibility** are central in all we do. Integration and Inclusion remains high on the agenda of the college and we will endeavour to make sure that every child is welcomed and taught in a safe and nurturing Priory College.

College Mission Statement

Priory Integrated College welcomes children from all traditions, cultures and abilities. Together, we aim to empower every child to reach their full potential, in a nurturing, caring environment which upholds respect and excellence for all.

Context

Definition of misuse of drugs and substances.

The misuse of any drug or substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees, thinks.

Drugs and substances include:

- alcohol, tobacco and tobacco-related products including nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) and vapes or e-cigs;
- 'over the counter medicines' such as paracetamol for headaches
- prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquillisers, painkiller, antidepressants. Antipsychotics, inhalers and stimulants such as Ritalin.
- volatile substances such as correcting fluids or thinners, gas lighter fuel, glues, petrol and aerosols
- illegal drugs such as cannabis (in all its forms including THC oil), LSD and ecstasy, amphetamine sulphate (speed), magic mushrooms, heroin and cocaine
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- New psychoactive substances (NPS) (formally known as legal highs) which contain one or more chemical substances that produce similar effects to legal drugs and may not be sold as incense, salts or plant foods, such as Herbal highs, Party pills
- Other substances such as amyl or butyl nitrite (known as poppers) and unprocessed magic mushrooms

Prory Integrated College will be implementing a zero tolerance approach to drugs and substance misuse.

Who the policy is applicable to

This policy is applicable

- within the college buildings and college grounds
- when pupils are in college uniform, on the way to and from school
- when pupils, teachers and non-teaching staff are on college trips
- when pupils are representing the college eg sport, cultural events etc

This policy outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of all teaching and non-teaching staff. Reference Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967.

Procedures for handling drugs and substance misuses are found in Appendix 1.

Procedures

The Principal will be responsible for the implementation of policy and procedures.

For teaching and non-teaching staff see Appendix 1.

The college's legal responsibilities are detailed in 'The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Section 5 of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967.

A suspected drug related incident is described as:

- suspect drugs/substances found on the college premises
- a pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs/substances
- a pupil found to be in possession of drugs/substances and/or paraphernalia associated with the use of illegal drugs or substances
- a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs/substances

Please note when dealing with the situation college staff are not permitted to search pupils' clothing or possessions. However, it is acceptable to ask the pupil to empty pockets and college bags. Staff may search college property such as lockers or desks, but always with a second member of staff present.

Dealing with the Media

If the college receives an enquiry from the media, the caller should be referred only to the Principal.

The Principal, or in his/her absence, the Vice-Principal or Designated Teacher, is responsible for the coordination of the arrangements to deal with individual cases of suspected or actual drug misuse. See Appendix 1.

Sanctions and Support

- automatic suspension for a period of time
- follow up drugs awareness programme designed to enable the pupil to make more positive choices in the future
- expulsion as deemed necessary after appropriate investigation

Monitoring and Evaluating

The Drugs and Substances Misuse Policy will be reviewed within a maximum of 3 years. It may be revised earlier to reflect changing circumstances and trends in the immediate environment.

Appendix 1

Teaching Staff/non teaching staff action in the event of a suspected case of Drug Misuse



