



SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Rooted in Christ and Catholic tradition and under the guidance of its patron, St Edmund's aims to realise the God-given potential, in body, mind and spirit, of all members of its community through service and leadership.

Avita Pro Fide!

St Edmund's is committed to ensuring the welfare and protection of children in their care and this commitment is a fundamental part of the role of every employee.

Being committed to the health and safety of its members and mindful of its pastoral role in this matter, St Edmund's seeks, through education and deterrence to prevent misuse of any substance, including drugs, alcohol or tobacco by any of the St Edmund's community.

Education

Through its pastoral programme which includes tutorials and the use of relevant external agencies, St Edmund's aims to provide support for students, parents and staff alike.

This programme seeks to promote care and respect for an individual's body and personality, mindful of the Church's teaching that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. St Edmund's believes that the use of illegal drugs and other substance misuse leads to physical and psychological damage. The programme which is designed to give up-to-date information about the misuse of these substances, also strives to help students resist peer group pressure and to provide parents with the opportunity to discuss, listen and share in an atmosphere of solidarity.

Deterrence

Illegal Drugs: Students who sell illegal drugs, distribute them or encourage others to use them will be permanently excluded from St Edmund's.

Any student found in possession of illegal drugs may also be excluded from St Edmund's, either on a temporary or permanent basis.

If a student is found to be using or is in possession of illegal drugs and is suspended rather than asked to leave St Edmund's, then this will be conditional on the parents consenting to a random drug testing programme with the associated support. These will be at the expense of the parents. The support programme will also include counselling, so as to enable the student to return as a full member of St Edmund's. However, any positive test would result in permanent exclusion. St Edmund's reserves the right to contact parents if there are suspicions about illegal drug abuse and may follow up any concerns with drug testing.

Substance Abuse: The use of substances, which whilst not illegal are considered by St Edmund's to be harmful (e.g. solvent sniffing etc) will be dealt within a similar way to illegal drugs.

Tobacco: Smoking or possession of tobacco or being in the presence of smokers is forbidden to students within the jurisdiction of St Edmund's.

- Any student who is found smoking in the buildings will be suspended from St Edmund's. Subsequent offences are likely to result in permanent exclusion.
- Any student who is in possession of cigarettes or tobacco of any kind, including shisha pens, electronic cigarettes or hookah pipes or who is found smoking in St Edmund's grounds, or who is in the company of smokers will be punished by a Headmaster's Detention (two hours after school) and a letter to parents or guardians. Subsequent offences are likely to result in temporary or even permanent exclusion.

Students seeking help with smoking cessation may want to speak to the Infirmary Sister for help and advice, but must bear in mind the above rules throughout.

Alcohol: Students must not consume alcohol or bring alcohol into St Edmund's. Supplying alcohol to others is also forbidden.

It is not acceptable for a student to be under the influence of alcohol.

Disciplinary measures will be taken up to and including temporary or permanent exclusion.

One glass of beer or wine may be offered to students in Rhetoric (over the age of 16) attending special social occasions organised by St Edmund's, in the presence of staff and with the explicit permission of the Headmaster. Soft drinks will always be offered as an alternative. Food must also be served. Spirits must never be available.

Where a pupil is thought to be dependent upon alcohol, the matter will be discussed with parents and where possible, assistance will be offered, through support and/or counselling. It may be that the parents seek help outside College, but in cases where the College Counsellor is appointed to assist, the usual procedures regarding counselling will be followed.

Frequency of review: Annually
Policy last reviewed: Trinity 2018
Next review date: Trinity 2019