



***ST. THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL  
ACADEMY***

**Guidance Student Misuse or Abuse of Drugs Policy**

<b>Reviewed by PACE Committee on:</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> September 2013</b>
<b>Re -Adopted by Governing Body on:</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> December 2013</b>
<b>Reviewed by CACE Committee on:</b>	<b>January 2018</b>
<b>Approved by SLT</b>	<b>September 2022</b>

Mr Daniel Cauchi  
Chair of the Governing Body

**The School's Mission Statement**

To inspire,

To learn,

To achieve,

To keep our Catholic ethos at the centre of our lives,

To fulfil our educational potential, welcoming all and reaching out to the  
wider world,

To truly be God's servant first.

# **POLICY STATEMENT: SANCTIONS IN THE CASE OF MISUSE OR ABUSE OF DRUGS<sup>1</sup>**

## Introduction

The Governors and Headteacher wish to make it absolutely clear to Students, parents and staff that the school will not tolerate the bringing of illegal or banned drugs or substances onto school premises and grounds or on any school trip under any circumstances.

1. Any Student found smoking cigarettes or vape pens or in possession of cigarettes, vape pens or tobacco on school premises, or in the neighbourhood of the school during school hours, or on the journey to or from school or on any school trip, will automatically be suspended for a fixed term, and have the cigarettes, vape pens, matches, lighter etc. confiscated.
2. Any Student found consuming alcohol, or in possession of alcohol in any form on school premises, or in the neighbourhood of the school during school hours, or on the journey to or from school or on any school trip or found to be under the influence of alcohol when on the school premises will automatically be suspended for a fixed term, and have the offending articles confiscated. The only exception would be where the Headteacher had granted express permission for older students to consume small amounts of alcohol at a school event under strictly supervised conditions.
3. Any Student found in possession of, or consuming or using, or passing to or receiving from another Student, or found to be under the influence of when on the school premises, any illegal or banned substances not mentioned in 1 or 2 above, whether on school premises, or in the neighbourhood of the school during school hours, or on the journey to or from school or on any school trip, will face the following sanctions:
  - (i) The police will be called and Students may be searched, arrested and taken to the police station. Students may then be subjected to drugs testing
  - (ii) The Student will be permanently excluded. Only in the most exceptional circumstances, where the Headteacher and

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<sup>1</sup> Definition:

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

The term 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, all over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

Governors feel that there are overwhelming mitigating factors, will a less severe sanction be imposed.

4. Concerning Students whose behaviour leads members of staff to believe that the Student is under the influence of alcohol or any banned substance:
  - (i) Should a Student's behaviour lead members of staff to suspect that the Student may be under the influence of alcohol or any illegal or banned substance then the parents may be informed. Medical assistance may be called for, if it is judged appropriate. The police may also be called and Students may be searched, arrested or taken to the police station.
  - (ii) The Student's behaviour will be treated under the school's discipline policy which includes suspension and permanent-exclusion. Furthermore, it should be recognised that being under the influence of alcohol or any illegal or banned substance on school premises, or in the neighbourhood of the school during school hours, or on the journey to or from school or on any school trip will be regarded, for disciplinary purposes, as having been found in possession of these substances, that is in the case of alcohol automatic suspension and in the case of illegal or banned substances, permanent exclusion as per 2) and 3) above.

#### Conclusions

- (a) The school's position must be clearly understood. Students who bring illegal drugs of the kind mentioned in (3) above to school will be permanently excluded.
- (b) The Governors and Head Teacher believe that such a stand is necessary for the safety and moral well-being of the whole school community.
- (c) A Catholic school, while deeply regretting the action of suspending any individual Student from its community, and believing firmly in the concept of personal redemption, must nonetheless accept that there are some situations in which the security and health of the majority outweigh the needs of an individual. Indeed, a fresh start may be beneficial for the individual. The school must provide a clearly understood framework of rules and sanctions, and a safe environment for all the Students entrusted to us by their parents.
- (d) We have an unambiguous programme for Students concerning the dangers of drugs.