



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

**Guidance Pupil 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>

Mrs Nuala Kelsey-Cashell  
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 pupils, 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 pupil found smoking cigarettes or in possession of cigarettes 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 excluded for a fixed term, and have the cigarettes, matches, lighter etc. confiscated.
2. Any pupil 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 excluded 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 pupil found in possession of, or consuming or using, or passing to or receiving from another pupil, 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 pupils may be searched, arrested and taken to the police station. Pupils may then be subjected to drugs testing
  - (ii) The pupil will be permanently excluded. Only in the most exceptional circumstances, where the Headteacher and Governors feel that there are overwhelming mitigating factors, will a less severe sanction be imposed.

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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.

4. Concerning pupils whose behaviour leads members of staff to believe that the pupil is under the influence of alcohol or any banned substance:
  - (i) Should a pupil's behaviour lead members of staff to suspect that the pupil 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 pupils may be searched, arrested or taken to the police station.
  - (ii) The pupil's behaviour will be treated under the school's discipline policy which includes fixed-period exclusion 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 fixed-period exclusion 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. Pupils who bring illegal drugs of the kind mentioned in (3) above to school will be expelled.
- (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 excluding any individual pupil 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 pupils entrusted to us by their parents.
- (d) We have an unambiguous programme for pupils concerning the dangers of drugs.

(Revised January 2018 by the CACE Committee)

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