

## LORETO ANTI-DRUGS POLICY

Last Review:	October 2016
Approved by Governors:	March 2015
Next Review:	October 2018

### Vision

Loreto College is centred in God, rooted in Christ and animated by the spirit of Mary Ward, the founder of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our vision is that it will be an educational community where each person has the experience of being loved and valued as a sacred individual created by a loving God; a community where students enjoy an enriching and liberating education that helps them grow into the fullness of life and empowers them to be men and women of courage who are alive to the needs of humanity and committed to making a better world.

### Introduction

The College aims to be an educational community which gives expression to the core values of Mary Ward - freedom, justice, sincerity, truth, joy, excellence and internationality.

Loreto College has the highest expectations of personal, academic and professional excellence. This document sets out the College's policy and guidance on the procedures it will follow in the event that a drug related issue arises. Whilst acting at all times with justice, compassion and respect for the dignity and worth of staff and students, the college will be mindful of its core values, legal responsibilities and duty of care to all members of the college community.

### Preamble

The College Mission States that Loreto exists: *"to respond to the needs of young people from its partnership high schools and special schools in Manchester and surrounding areas"*.

The Curriculum Statement clearly indicates that the College will give assistance to students by assisting: *"their growth as purposeful, mature, flexible minded" individuals*.

The Students' Charter states that students will be given: *"advice on security and safety"*

This drugs policy embodies Loreto's commitment to the welfare of its students as laid down in its Mission Statement and Students' Charter. Its purpose is to protect students from the misuse of illegal substances (recognising that alcohol is also a drug which can be misused) and thereby ensuring their physical, mental and spiritual well-being. It is therefore recognised that a drug is any substance, taken into the body, which alters the way the mind or body functions. In this document the term 'drugs' refers to all controlled drugs listed under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971), including all three categories (A, B & C) plus alcohol.

The aims of the policy are therefore:

- To recognise that the college is committed to providing a programme of drugs education which will enable students to appreciate the dangers of abuse.
- To inform staff and students of the procedure which will be employed in the case of:
  - a. A student who is ill after taking drugs.
  - b. A student found in possession of illegal substances.
  - c. A student who is found in possession or under the influence of alcohol.
- To provide a list of contact numbers and addresses for students who need further help and information.

## **EDUCATION ON DRUG USE**

This will be specifically dealt with in tutorial as part of the Lower Sixth programme. It is recognised that at times further information could be given as part of assemblies or as part of a subject programme.

## **SUPPORT AND ADVICE**

The college will give support and advice on drugs related issues but it must be recognised that full confidentiality is not possible and should not be offered by a member of staff. The following support is offered within the college:

- The Personal Tutor
- The Head of Hall
- The Chaplain
- The Student Counsellor

If further information is required, a list of outside organisations is made available to the students as a part of their pack on drug abuse.

## **DISCOVERY OF A STUDENT FOUND IN POSSESSION OF DRUGS**

The college has a clear line of discipline on this issue which is explained to students when they first enter Loreto.

Students will be expelled if found in possession, or under the influence, of illegal or non- medically prescribed drugs.

Students may be expelled if found in possession, or under the influence of alcohol.

## **MANAGING INCIDENTS**

In a situation where a student is believed to have consumed drugs:-

- A senior member of staff should be contacted.
- Any substances found will be kept and checked later.
- The Head of Hall will contact parents and inform them of the situation.
- The student will be sent home with a letter of explanation.

In the situation where a student is believed to be adversely or acutely affected by drugs, the individual should:

- Call a trained first aider.
- If necessary, call for professional medical help.
- Contact a Head of Hall, if possible the student's own.
- Keep any substances found so that they can be checked later.
- The Head of Hall will contact parents and inform them of the situation.
- Disciplinary procedures will be followed.

## **CONCLUSION**

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the College's Safeguarding Policy.