



DRUG POLICY

INTRODUCTION

We, at Sagan Centre, are determined to be pro-active, to protect our pupils, and to keep our campus drug free.

This policy is part of a multi-pronged approach to help our pupils say “No” to drugs.

All pupils and their parents are requested to read this policy and to acknowledge their acceptance.

PRINCIPLES OF THE SCHOOL’S POLICY

Substance abuse is defined as the unauthorised use of drugs (whether legal or illegal) by any pupil. (“Drugs” thus include alcohol for the purpose of this document.) The reference to “school” is to be understood to include all camps/tours/trips/outings etc. that the school may organise.

1. CONFIDENTIALITY

We are conscious of the sensitivity and the complexity of the issue and will do everything in our power to ensure that pupils affected, or perceived to be affected, by the use of drugs will be protected from stigmatisation and discrimination. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance and will be upheld as far as possible. However, when the need arises, and if it is the majority opinion of the management committee, the school has the right to discuss the case with appropriate persons.

2. EDUCATION – PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

Sagan Centre is committed to educating pupils (and teachers/independent contractors) and informing them of the various types of drugs, the methods by which drugs are made available and the dangers of using drugs.

3. A PROGRAMME OF COMPASSION AND SUPPORT

Sagan Centre, in association with accredited professions and organisations, will assist pupils who have abuse and dependency problems. When there is reason to believe a pupil is experimenting (or at risk of experimenting) with drugs, the Director of Studies will approach the pupil and parents with their concerns and suggest relevant professional counselling. Such an approach will be kept in the strictest confidence.

4. DRUG TESTING

If there is evidence of suspected substance abuse, the Director of studies and/or member of the management committee may request a urine test. An independent team an appointed school nurse and drug councillor will be called. The parents/guardians will be informed in advance. If the test is positive, the pupil and his/her parents will have to agree to a rehabilitative programme discussed with and agreed upon by the school. If a pupil volunteers to go for testing via the management committee, the results will remain confidential and a rehabilitative programme discussed with and agreed on by the parents will be organised.

5. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the director of studies and the management committee.

. Disciplinary action will be taken in the following circumstances:



- Where a pupil abuses drugs at school.
- Where a user has a negative effect on any pupil (i.e. influencing them to use drugs).
- If a pupil comes to school under the influence of drugs.
- If a pupil fails to meet the conditions for rehabilitation as agreed on by the pupil, parents and school. In such a case, the Director of Studies may instruct parents to find alternative schooling. Legal action will be taken:
- Where a pupil is found guilty (after a formal hearing) of being in possession of OR distributing OR selling drugs at school he/she will be liable for immediate suspension. Expulsion proceedings will follow. In such cases the school will contact the parents and may refer the matter to the police for investigation.

CONCLUSION

Agreement to abide by the spirit and terms of this policy as part of the general Code of Conduct of the school is a fundamental condition for acceptance into the school, for continued attendance, and for participation in all its programmes and activities.