

ANTI - DRUGS POLICY

Approved: 29.06.2017

Next Review/Update: 29.06.2018

1. Worryingly, we live in a society where illicit drugs are readily available and where our children are often under considerable pressure to experiment with tobacco, alcohol and drugs. The College addresses these issues in three ways:
 - firstly, as part of our PSHEE and House Period and assembly programme, we educate students about the dangers associated with the use and abuse of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs;
 - secondly, we attempt to instil in our students sufficient self-confidence to be able to say no when they find themselves under pressure to try illegal substances; and
 - thirdly, we have a sanctions system designed to deter our students from using tobacco, alcohol and drugs while they are enrolled at RIC.

2. In summary, the College rules relating to illicit drug use or possession are as follows:

- anyone found to be supplying or selling drugs with any classification of drugs will be excluded and the Police will be informed;
- Any student caught consuming or to be in possession of or using cannabis or other Class B and C drugs (including so-called “legal” highs), either at College or off campus will be, as a minimum response:

All the below will apply:

- o suspended for up to two weeks;

- o if allowed to return to College only on the understanding that:

- he/she will undergo random external testing (Local GP Practice) for the remainder of his/her time at RIC; and
- a subsequent positive test will result in exclusion.

The College will permanently exclude for all illegal substance related issues.

3. If the College suspects that a student is using drugs, he or she will be required to undergo an internal urine test. The College’s Term and Conditions with parents gives the College permission to make students be tested externally when we believe there are reasonable grounds for suspicion, but parents will be informed after the test is carried out as a courtesy. Refusal by a student to undergo a test will be deemed an admission of guilt.
4. If at this point the student returns a positive test for a Class A drug, he/she will be permanently excluded and the Police will be informed. If the student returns a positive test for cannabis or other non-Class A drugs, or if there is still reason to believe that the student is at risk of using drugs, he or she will be placed on the College internal testing programme. The College reserves the right to consider a permanent exclusion in these cases.

5. Once a student has been placed on the testing programme, the College will ensure that the student is internally tested at least once per term. It should be noted that a subsequent positive test for any illicit substance will automatically result in permanent exclusion.

6. The purpose of this policy is to deter Students from using drugs, rather than to catch them out and force them to leave the College. Experience has shown that those parents whose children have been placed on the testing programme are usually very grateful because they know that for the remainder of their child's time at RIC, he or she is not using drugs.

7. In line with our commitment to minimise the risk of Students coming into contact with illicit drugs whilst at the College and local areas. We periodically screen for the presence of such substances by randomly searching College premises and students lockers, bags and other personal items.
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