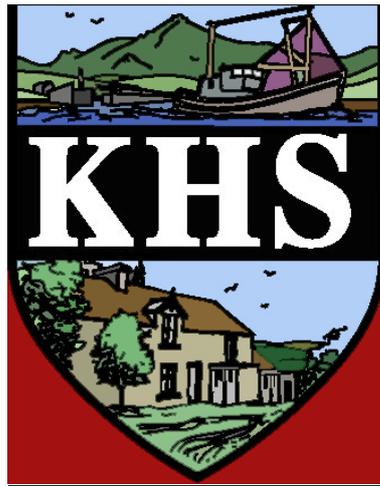


KILKEE HIGH SCHOOL



DRUGS' EDUCATION POLICY

(N.B. The full School Policy is available in school.)

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Kilkeel High School utterly opposes the misuse of drugs by members of the school as well as the illegal supply of such substances to or by anyone connected with the school community. As a school we are committed to the health and safety of all our members and will take the necessary action to safeguard their well-being.

We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and, through the general ethos of the school in addition to our Drugs' Education Programme, will seek to inform and educate our students in the consequences of drug use and misuse. We take a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that Health Education is a vital part of the Personal and Social Education of every student.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the important principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of young people with parents and guardians; we will, therefore, keep them informed and involved at all times.

The school will actively co-operate and liaise with locally based community initiatives, the PSNI Community Liaison Team, Social Services, SELB and the Health and Drug Agencies in order to deliver its commitment to Drugs' Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

AIMS

The school's overall aim encompasses **TWO** main areas:

1. PREVENTION

Through the Drugs' Education Programme, we aim to :

- minimise the number of young people in the school who ever engage in drugs' misuse;
- persuade our young people to resist experimentation, or, if already experimenting with or misusing drugs, to stop;
- encourage any who do experiment regularly to seek help and support and, eventually, to persuade them to stop.

2. PROTECTION

Through the Drugs' Education Programme, we aim to help our young people by :

- providing accurate and up-to-date information on drugs and their effects on health, and on the risks and legal aspects of drug-taking so that they will be enabled to distinguish fact from myth;
- introducing opportunities to enhance the young people's self-respect, personal competence and self-esteem by encouraging the development of :
 - positive attitudes and behaviours towards themselves as well as in their

- social relationships with others;
- skills and behaviours which enable them to communicate effectively, assert themselves, take responsible decisions, identify risks, help others and resist pressures and influences which might lead them to participate in activities which could have serious consequences for their health and well-being;
- an understanding of the varying attitudes, values and perspectives which exist towards drug-related issues and so enable them to reach an informed personal viewpoint.

At all times we will endeavour to ensure progression and continuity in the knowledge, understanding, skills, attitudes and values addressed. The specific content, the depth of treatment, the strategies and the activities included will be, as far as possible, matched to the age, maturity and circumstances of our young people.

CURRICULUM

Our AIMS will be fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curricular activities. The **Drugs' Education Programme** will be delivered in the taught curriculum mainly through Personal, Social and Health Education, Science, Religious Studies, Home Economics, Physical Education and English (as directed by the Programmes of Study and the Northern Ireland Curriculum), but further opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other areas of the teaching programme.

SANCTIONS

Any student found to be involved with drugs will face at least suspension with detailed reports being sent, not only to the PSNI, but also to all relevant outside agencies.