

Respect

In our Huish community, there is an expectation that everyone behaves with care, concern and respect for others and their property.

Richard Huish College operates a policy of zero tolerance in relation to drugs, alcohol, harassment, bullying and discrimination. In particular, members of our community must not be in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia whilst at College or whilst taking part in any College activity; neither must they be under the influence of drugs or other substances whilst taking part in any College-related activity

Procedure for Management of Drugs-related issues - students

The immediate priority is the safety and wellbeing of students and staff. Staff must:

- Ensure the student(s) receives medical attention, if appropriate
- Remove the student/s from any College activity if suspected of being under the influence of drugs or other substances
- Ensure that other students and staff members' health and wellbeing is uncompromised by any incident relating to drugs/other substances

The second priority is regard for the law; any of the following steps may be taken:

- Removal of controlled drugs and/or associated paraphernalia from the possession of student/s and dealing with the items in an appropriate manner, which may include handing to the Police.
- Reporting the supply/possession of drugs to the Police.

The third priority is if the student is under the age of 18 years, communicating with a student's parents/carers about the drugs-related issue. This communication may include a 'without prejudice' suspension of the student from College pending a College investigation of the matter.

The fourth priority is to educate all stakeholders about the impact of taking controlled categories of drugs on their health, academic performance, career prospects and travel options and, when appropriate, offer harm reduction support. Such support may result in referral to Targeted Youth Support (YTS) via Somerset County Council.

If there is clear evidence of a student possessing and/or using drugs or being in possession of drugs paraphernalia whilst on a College activity, these are the potential outcomes:

1. 'Without Prejudice' exclusion from College pending investigation
2. Permanent exclusion from College
3. Following suspension, a student may return to College studies with conditions imposed, such as actively working with Targeted Youth Support (TYS), or with a change of study programme.
4. Referral of the matter to the Police.