



# ST PATRICK'S

## Catholic College

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Headteacher: Mrs C. M. Humble BA (Hons) NPQH



4 October 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

### REF: CONCERNS REGARDING RISK TAKING BEHAVIOUR – DRUGS

As a school, we have received information from a member of the local community to say that they had 'heard' that a very small number of pupils in our school may have taken, and possibly have sold on, prescription drugs known as pregabalin.

The school has followed the correct procedures to ensure that this information was dealt with appropriately to protect all young people within the school. The school has worked closely with PCSO (C8594) Jane Gibson, Thornaby School Support Officer, and all information that the school has found has been handed over to the police to deal with as they see fit.

As part of our school duty to protect all our young people, the school will, for an indefinite period, carry out random bag checks at the start of the school day, in order to ensure that no illegal substances, or prescription medication that may be taken illegally, is brought into school. I must stress that this is a preventative measure and is not an indication that this has happened.

I would like to draw to the attention of all parents, our Behaviour Policy, where it clearly states that:

***"All incidents relating to the use of/ selling of/ sharing of illicit substances will result in permanent exclusion. In all cases the police and the pupil's parents/carers will be informed."***

Working alongside the police, and hopefully the NHS, the school will be holding an informal **Parents' Awareness Evening** so that any parent who may have any concerns about what illegal substances are available in the local area, or the impact of prescription drugs such as pregabalin, may come along to find out relevant information. This date will be text home to all parents as soon as it is confirmed by our colleagues in the Police. I have also arranged for Jane and one of her Police colleagues, Dale Metcalfe, to come into school and speak to our young people regarding the dangers of drugs and the misuse of prescription drugs.

Finally, I ask that all parents remain vigilant and if you do think that your child may be acting differently, then please challenge and support them and let a professional know.

Yours faithfully  
Mrs C M Humble