



**St Nicholas**  
**Catholic High School**  
**Drugs Policy**

## Version Control

Current version	Previous version	Summary of changes made
v.1		New Policy
		The draft copy should be submitted to the local SCIE team for their input.

Policy Impact Statement	
<b>Policy:</b>	
<b>This Policy has been implemented:</b>	
Fully	
Partially	
Occasionally	
Not at all (give reasons why)	
<b>What revisions need to be made:</b>	
To the Policy?	See Version Control Above
To its implementation?	

## **Guiding Principles**

It is the aim of St Nicholas Catholic High School to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential to harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

### **Aims:**

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all students, staff and visitors
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum

### **Key roles and responsibilities**

The Assistant Headteacher for Personal Development, Behaviour Welfare and Safety is responsible for drug related issues within the school.

### **Inclusive definition of drugs**

St Nicholas Catholic High School School defines a drug as a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

### **Drug Education**

- **Context**  
We will provide all students with drug education as an integral part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship programme
- **Ethos**  
Drug education in our school aims to enable students to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practicing decision making skills. The programme we follow will be based on national and local guidelines for good practice and be appropriate to the age and experience of our students.
- **Content and delivery**  
Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the differing needs and learning styles of students. It is recognised that active or participatory learning styles can be particularly helpful in developing skills, knowledge and values.
- **Use of visitors and outside speakers**  
We use visitors to support our planned teacher lead programme of education, in line with national and local guidance. We are careful to negotiate the use of visitors so that their contribution fits our needs and they are clear how their input fits into our planned programme. The class teacher is always present when visitors are working with our students.

## **Managing drug related incidents: routine arrangements**

- **Medicines**

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Our practice is in line with guidance as recommended by DfE guidance.

- **Alcohol**

Students are not allowed to bring in alcohol on the school. Parents and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school.

- **Tobacco**

The school is a no smoking site - indoors and outdoors, including school vehicles - at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated in line with the School's Behaviour Policy.

- **Solvents**

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvent based products.

- **Illegal drugs**

No illegal drugs are permitted to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Should a student be found in possession of illegal drugs then a permanent exclusion is possible in line with the School's Behaviour Policy.

## **Incidents**

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- A student who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug
- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of drug possession supply or drug use.
- Reports of drug possession supply or drug use

## **Process**

- The Assistant Headteacher for Personal Development, Behaviour Welfare and Safety is responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.
- Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and be reported to the Headteacher.
- Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance misuse problems.
- Evidence of drug use or possession will result in exclusion – these could be Fixed Term or Permanent.
- The school will always seek to respond appropriately to each individual case by selecting from a range of possible responses, that which is most appropriate.

- **Medical emergencies**

If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the safety of the student

- **Individuals in possession of drugs**

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated in line with DfE guidance. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact the police and immediately hand over the drug. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than is necessary. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than to conduct a wider investigation. Parents of students will be informed and other professionals from CWAC, Youth Service, Police, School Health Service, Social Service etc may be informed or consulted as appropriate. Appropriate investigations will be carried out and sanctions applied in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

- **Support for Students**

Following actions to preserve immediate safety, the health and emotional needs of students will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system to ensure a caring response to students in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or that of their parent or carer. Such interventions may include consultation and subsequent referral.

- **Recording**

All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours. Forms will be stored securely in the student file.

### **Confidentiality**

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will only be disclosed to anyone else in the interests of Child Protection. If a student discloses that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, action will be taken to ensure that the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a significant risk. Staff have a commitment to inform the student in advance of any disclosure of information to others and if possible enable the student to be involved in the process. Staff are committed to protect a young person's anonymity where their disclosure may implicate others. Regarding disclosures staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

### **Staff training and support**

We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise. The school drugs coordinator, or other appropriate member of staff, will organise training related to the identified needs of staff as required.

### Links to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- School Behaviour Policy
- School Health & Safety policy
- School Medicines Policy
- DfE Behaviour and Discipline in Schools (2016)
- DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation at School (2018)
- SdFE upporting Pupils with Medical Conditions at School (2017)
- The Equality Act 2010

Reviewed by: Student Welfare and progress Committee	Date: 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2018
Ratified by Governing Body	Signed: Date: 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Review of Policy Due By	Date: May 2021