



# **St Nicholas Catholic High School**

**Drugs Policy 2021**

**To be read in conjunction with:**

School Behaviour Policy  
 School Health and Safety Policy  
 School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy  
 DfE Behaviour and Discipline in School (2016)  
 DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation at School (2018)  
 DfE Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions at School (2017)  
 The Equality Act (2010)

**Version Control**

<b>Current version</b>	<b>Previous version</b>	<b>Summary of changes made</b>
January 2021	July 2018	<i>Assistant Headteacher for Personal Development, Behaviour Welfare and Safety is responsible for drug related issues within the school' to 'Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for coordinating the response to drug related issues within the school'</i>
January 2021	July 2018	<i>'We use visitors' to 'We may use visitors'</i>
January 2021	July 2018	<i>'The class teacher' to 'A member of staff'</i>
January 2021	July 2018	<i>'Forms will be stored securely in the student file' to 'Forms will be stored securely in the student file and / or on CPOMS'</i>
January 2021	July 2018	Removed <i>'and experience'</i>
January 2021	July 2018	Removed <i>'The school drugs coordinator'</i>
January 2021	July 2018	<i>'within 24 hours' to 'as soon as practically possible'</i>
January 2021	July 2018	Added to Incidents section: <i>'Involvement in any of the above may result in a Permanent Exclusion from St Nicholas Catholic High School'</i>

<b>Policy Impact Statement</b>	
<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. 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 Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for coordinating the response to drug related issues within the school.

### **Inclusive definition of drugs**

St Nicholas Catholic High 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 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 at St Nicholas Catholic High 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 practising decision-making skills. The programme we follow will be based on national and local guidelines for good practice and be appropriate to the age of our students.

## **Content and delivery**

Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used 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 may 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 need, and they are clear how their input fits into our planned programme. A member of staff 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. 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 are in 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:

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

Involvement in any of the above may result in a Permanent Exclusion from St Nicholas Catholic High School.

## **Process**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead 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 assessing the situation and 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 – this 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.

## **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, Children's Social Care 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 risk 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 as soon as practically possible. Forms will be stored securely in the student file and / or on CPOMS

### **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 appropriate member of staff will organise training related to the identified needs of staff as required.

Reviewed by Student Welfare and Progress Committee	March 2021
Ratified by: Governing Body	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021
Review of Policy due by	March 2024