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# DRUGS (SUBSTANCE MISUSE) POLICY

## ST. ILLTYD'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Date adopted 12/7/18 JAS

Reviewed on \_\_\_\_\_

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**ST. ILLTYD'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**  
**DRUGS POLICY**  
**MAY 2017**

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the schools' role in drug prevention and education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. The policy provides information and guidance about drug education, as well as procedures to respond to any drug-related incident, for pupils, teachers, support-staff and outside agencies or individuals.

The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole school community.

This policy aims to make clear procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents. This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport as well as school visits/trips/fieldwork/ residential etc.

**Definition:** "Drugs" are taken here to mean those that are legal, such as alcohol and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD etc.

The school believes that the possession and or use of such drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is inappropriate. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, *or* while pupils are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines where appropriate.

**Drug Education:** The school provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

(i) The National Curriculum science order outlines the content of the *statutory* drugs education-

- Key Stage 3, 11-14 year olds are taught the abuse of smoking, alcohol, solvents, vaccinations and immunisation basics
- Key Stage 4, 14-16 year olds are taught the effects of cannabis, alcohol, tobacco in more detail, cocaine, heroine, ecstasy, LSD, steroids are taught as illegal. Vaccinations are covered in depth. Drugs against diseases – anti virals/biotics and thalidomide – the dangers of prescriptive drugs.

(ii) PSE reflects other topics that reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills: this will :

- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices

- Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- Provide accurate information about substances
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support

On the whole, it will be teachers who will teach drug education but, where appropriate, outside visitors may make a contribution. Such visitors should be used in a planned way and be their contributions evaluated. Teachers will have access to on-going advice, support and training as part of their own professional development. The school actively cooperates with agencies such as the LEA, police, health and drug agencies.

**Statutory duty of the school:** The Head Teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the governing body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies. The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported.

The school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug (e.g. the preparation of, or smoking of cannabis). Where it is suspected that substances are being brought onto used or sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well as much information as possible, will be passed to the police. The school operates a zero tolerance policy towards drugs.

**Implementation of the policy: In incidents involving substance misuse or supply on the premises/during the school day, and following discussion with the pupil and staff, action will proceed as follows.**

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with by school first aid teams. Emergency support will be sought if needed.
- In cases of drugs being brought onto school premises used or sold, during the school day or during school visits etc. the incident will be discussed with the pupil by a senior member of staff and a written account taken. Parents/carers will be informed by the school as soon as possible. Police will also be informed of the incident.
- If a pupil admits to bringing drugs onto the school premises or using or supplying drugs a senior member of staff will inform parents/carers and the police.
- The school operates a zero tolerance approach to supplying and being in possession of drugs.

Any pupil found to be:-

1. In possession of drugs on the school premises or on the way to or from school (including the school bus) while being identifiable as a St Iltyd's pupil i.e. in school uniform;
2. Supplying or distributing drugs on the school premises or on the way to or from school (including the school bus) while being identifiable as a St Iltyd's pupil i.e. in school uniform;
3. Any combination of the above

... will be permanently excluded from school

Any pupil found to be:-

1. Using drugs on the school premises or on the way to or from school (including while being identifiable as a St Iltyd's pupil i.e. in school uniform);
2. Seemingly under the influence of drugs on the school premises or on the way to or from school (including while being identifiable as a St Iltyd's pupil i.e. in school uniform);

... will run the risk of being permanently excluded from school

Pupils, parents/carers will be offered support from the LA and any appropriate outside agencies that would be deemed to be helpful in such incidents.

The Governing Body will be informed and involved in drug related incidents.

When dealing with drug-related incidents, the school has adopted the procedures as laid out in **Drugs: guidance for schools (DfES/0092/2004)** and that all staff, parents/carers and pupils will be reminded of these procedures on an annual basis.

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with as per Appendix A
- In cases of substance use/misuse or supply on the premises, during the school day or during school visits etc, the case will be discussed with the young person and a written record taken (see Appendix C); parents/carers will be informed by the Head Teacher as soon as possible. The support of outside agencies will be sought if appropriate
- If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the appropriate action will be to inform the Safeguarding officer/ Wellbeing Team who will inform the Head Teacher, who will inform the parents/carers

- While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, they may also be involved at the discretion of the Head Teacher in consultation with governors and staff who know the young person well.
- The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident. Specific cases will be managed as per Appendix B: all staff, pupils, parents/carers will be informed of these issues.
- The governing body will be involved in drug-related incidents as they are concerning other matters relating to the school.
- The Head Teacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required

All staff, parents/carers and young people will be reminded of this policy, and its procedures, on a regular basis.

APPENDIX A : Drug situation – medical emergencies

Policy written: May 2017

Date of next Planned Review: May 2018

### **Appendix A :Drug situations – medical emergencies**

The procedures for an emergency apply when a person is at immediate risk of harm. A person who is unconscious, having trouble breathing, seriously confused or disorientated or who has taken harmful toxic substance, should be responded to as an emergency.

**The main responsibility is for the pupil at immediate risk, but you also need to ensure the well-being and safety of others. Put into practice your school's**

**first-aid procedures. If in any doubt, call medical help.**

**Always:**

- assess the situation
- if a medical emergency, send for medical help and ambulance

**Before assistance arrives**

If the person is conscious:

- ask them what has happened and to identify any drug used
- collect any drug sample for medical analysis
- **do not** induce vomiting
- **do not** chase or over-excite them if intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance
- keep them under observation, warm and quiet

If the person is unconscious:

- ensure that they can breathe and place in the recovery position
- **do not** move them if a fall is likely to have led to spinal or other serious injury which may not be obvious
- **do not** give them anything by mouth
- **do not** attempt to make them sit or stand
- **do not** leave them unattended or in the charge of another pupil
- notify parents/carers

For needle stick(sharps) injuries:

- encourage wound to bleed. **Do not** suck. Wash with soap and water. Dry and apply waterproof dressing
- if used/dirty needle seek advice from a doctor

**When medical help arrives**

- pass on any information available, including vomit and any drug samples

Complete a medical record form as soon as you have dealt with the emergency.

Inform **parent/carer** if appropriate and does not place the child at risk

Inform other staff. Local Authority and parents/carers if appropriate

**If illegal drug:** notify the **police** without delay, who will arrange for collection or disposal according to locally agreed protocols. There is no legal obligation to divulge a pupil's name

**Insert contact details for local police:**

**If legal:** alcohol, tobacco or medicines can be returned to parent/carer or the drug can be disposed of safely