

Saint Martin's Catholic Academy



Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco Policy & Procedures

*'Knowing the best that has been thought
and said and knowing that we are loved by God'*

Approved by: Jim Connolly **Date:** 16/05/19

Last reviewed on: May 2019

Next review due by: May 2021

POLICY AND SANCTIONS WITH REGARD TO DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

We believe that drugs, alcohol and tobacco can play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognise that their use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, wellbeing and academic achievement. It is the responsibility of the school to help reduce the harm from drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and play a role in their prevention and education, as well as help those who misuse them, or who are vulnerable to misuse. Self-respect and a healthy lifestyle are all part of an approach which will enable our students to make the right choices for themselves and their families now and in the future.

We take a positive and proactive approach to the issue of drugs and this policy aims to:

- Give a clear view on the use of drugs in school.
- To enable pupils to make healthy and informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising decision-making skills.
- Provide information so that everyone is clear about the procedures should an incident occur and the approach taken by the school.
- Give information about what is taught, how it is taught
- Give guidance to teachers, support staff and visitors about drug education

These aims are fulfilled through a programme of education arranged through the established curriculum, through our integrated PSHE curriculum and through specially invited external speakers. The programme involves pupils of all ages and continues throughout their time at the school.

Saint Martin's Catholic Academy tolerates neither the misuse of drugs, alcohol or tobacco by members of the School nor the illegal supply of these substances.

Saint Martin's Catholic Academy is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

Saint Martin's Catholic Academy acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through formal education and the School's general ethos; it will seek to provide the support pupils need to avoid the problems of substance abuse.

Pupils can discuss their individual worries with the Pastoral Team or any member of staff. They can also refer themselves to the School Nurse Service or use the 'HealthforTeens' advice line without fearing sanctions. We also invite external group stalls to parents Evenings, and are very conscious of the importance of working together in order to promote the well-being of your son or daughter.

The School actively co-operates with other agencies such as the local Police, Social Services, and the Health Services to deliver its commitment to drugs, alcohol and tobacco education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

The policy will be reviewed regularly every 2 years and in the light of any drug-related incident.

SPECIFIC POLICY AND THE MANAGEMENT OF INCIDENTS

1. Tobacco

The School rule states: Smoking and the possession of smoking materials, including e-cigarettes and shisha pens, are forbidden, regardless of the nicotine content. Pupils should not return to School having clearly smoked elsewhere. These are Serious Offences.

All Smoking incidents are reported to a pupil's Head of Year and parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity. All offences will be reported to the Principal. Any instances of smoking will receive a minimum one day inclusion depending on the circumstances of the incident. Further instances will escalate in the severity of sanction and will lead to exclusion if necessary. A school nurse referral will also automatically be completed to support the student.

E-Cigarettes and vaping are treated in the same way as other forms of smoking.

The School will always contact the manager of any establishment found to be active in selling tobacco or tobacco products to under age pupils and the Police may also be informed.

Members of staff (academic and non-academic) are reminded that smoking is banned across the school site both inside and outside buildings. It is also expected that staff should refrain from smoking in the presence of pupils at any time.

2. Alcohol

The School rule states: Alcoholic drinks may not be brought onto the school premises at any time. Drinking to excess under any circumstances is unacceptable. Pupils should not return to School clearly having consumed alcohol elsewhere.

The School is clearly bound by the Law of the land and those laws guide our policy. Pupils and parents/carers are encouraged to adopt a sensible attitude towards alcohol.

In the case of any incident involving the sale of alcohol to under age pupils, the School will personally contact the manager of the establishment involved and the Police will be informed.

3. Drugs

The School rule states: Taking, possessing or dealing in drugs is forbidden and can result in permanent exclusion.

The definition of a drug used by the then DfES in 'Drugs guidance for Schools' is:

A drug is a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

This includes:

- Drugs which are controlled/illegal substances (for example cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, LSD and mephedrone) under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Also so-called legal or herbal highs, which are considered illegal under current medicines legislation to sell, supply or advertise for 'human consumption'.
- Over-the-counter and prescription medicines used improperly, which can include sleeping tablets and slimming tablets
- All legal drugs when misused including volatile substances and solvents, Ketamine, Khat, alkyl nitrites.
- Drugs which are misused to enhance performance (for example analgesics or steroids)

The Principal reserves the right to react to the emergence of new substances and changing circumstances as they occur, based on the DfES definition of a drug above. This includes the new legislation of 2016 on Psychoactive Substances and their classification.

We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at Saint Martin's Catholic Academy, in which good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish. We believe that it is important to deliver a clear, consistent moral framework that promotes the integrity of our community, and gives all of our pupils the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances. All our staff have been trained in recognising and responding to the symptoms of drug, alcohol and substance abuse. Any member of staff or parent/carers concerned that a pupil might be involved in drug abuse should inform the school immediately.

We will always investigate rumours about involvements in illegal drugs and substances, including questioning a pupil, and potentially searching personal possessions. We will inform parents/carers as a matter of urgency and invite them into the school to discuss the matter.

Our drugs sanction policy allows the School to exercise clemency where it is merited, or give support and advice to those who need it. It aims to encourage honesty and in certain circumstances to allow a pupil to recognise that they have made a grave mistake and to strive to make amends for it within Saint Martin's Catholic Academy.

Our sanctions policy is as follows:

- a. Any pupil selling or distributing drugs or otherwise actively encouraging their possession or consumption by others will be permanently excluded.
- b. Anyone caught possessing or consuming illegal drugs while under the School's jurisdiction in term time loses any right to immediate membership of the School and must expect permanent exclusion to be a very strong possibility.
 - i. In some cases, there may be mitigating circumstances; if so, they will be carefully considered.
 - ii. The Principal or DSL will normally consult the Police about the possession, consumption or supply of an illegal drug, since it carries the possibility of being a criminal offence.
- c. A student may be allowed to stay in School provided that he or she:
 - i. Gives a written assurance to The Principal and to their parents/carers that they will not become involved with illegal drugs again.
 - ii. Agrees to take part in drug counselling if the School requires.
- d. The same undertakings will also be required of any pupil who may be allowed back after an offence because of mitigating circumstances.
- e. The scope of the School's discipline reaches to the point where there is a transfer of responsibility from school to parent/carer.
- f. However, where it becomes known that drugs abuse is taking place outside school, then the School is then in possession of information, which could be deemed to be criminal and may thus:
 - i. Inform parents/carers of the nature of what is being said.
 - ii. Ask that there should be drug counselling.
 - iii. Talk to the local police about the matter.
- g. In the event of the School's reputation being brought into disrepute it will be the School's qualified right to invoke its full disciplinary procedures.
- h. Any subsequent drugs abuse will result in expulsion. Semantic debate about drugs taken in the holidays or at leave weekends will not be conducted.
- i. Solvent abuse is also a serious school offence. The School may react to solvent abuse in a similar way to other forms of drug abuse.

DATE- Drugs, alcohol and Tobacco education

Aims of education

To give young people accurate information about drugs, alcohol and tobacco whilst helping them develop the skills and attitudes to make their own healthy, safe and responsible decisions about their use.

Key Stage 3 focuses on effects and risks of smoking, alcohol and solvents, attitudes to drugs, influences on drug use, risk taking.

Key Stage 4 focuses on ways to avoid risky situations, how to cope in situations involving drugs, dangers of misusing alcohol and drugs, where to get help and advice, the impact of drug use on society

To achieve this our Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco education programme will help pupils:

- To gain knowledge and understanding about the effects and risks and dangers of drugs, laws and effects of drugs on individuals, families, relationships and communities and correct myths and misunderstandings
- To develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self-awareness, negotiation, finding information, help and advice, helping others and managing situations involving drugs

- To develop skills to manage situations involving drugs including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others
- To explore their own and other peoples' attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences

This is achieved through numerous external visitors and projects such as 'PEAK' and 'Tobacco Trap'. We also work regularly with the school council to highlight issues or concerns both in and out of school which then reflects the pathways we take next with our students. We also use the prep time to instil positive messages and challenge the 'social norms' that most students assume. This follows the Healthy Schools' approach to Drugs, alcohol and tobacco education.

Useful Contacts:

Drugscope – the UK's leading independent centre of expertise on drugs, aims to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk.

- www.drugscope.org.uk
- www.drugeducation.org.uk
- www.nc.uk.net
- www.drugs.gov.uk
- www.wrecked.co.uk
- www.talktofrank.com