

St John Evangelist Catholic Primary School

DRUG AWARENESS POLICY

Mission Statement: To love, to learn with God in our hearts

Policy revised: APRIL 2023

Review Date: APRIL 2026



This Policy applies to all staff, teaching and non-teaching, pupils, parents/carers, governors and visitors during school time, on the school premises and during school trips.

Definitions and Terminology

For the purpose of the policy the term drugs includes legal drugs such as over the counter and prescribed medicines, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and other substances and illegal drugs.

Aims

- To provide a framework for staff to inform teaching and responses to drug related incidents on school premises.
- To encourage a partnership approach between home and school in drug awareness education.
- To ensure a whole school approach to health and well-being which involves all members of staff, children, parents and carers and governors.
- To provide a curriculum to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices.

Section 1: Drugs Education

Drug, alcohol and tobacco education is developmental and appropriate to the age and needs of pupils. It is part of a well-planned programme, delivered in a supportive atmosphere, where we aim for all pupils to feel comfortable to engage in open discussion and feel confident to ask for help if necessary.

The school bases its teaching for drugs education on the Ten:Ten Life to the Full RSE resources and its' aims are to:

Understand the effect that a range of substances including drugs, tobacco and alcohol can have on the body.
Learn how to make good choices about substances that will have a positive impact on their health.
Know that our bodies are created by God, so we should take care of them and be careful about what we consume.
Recognise how they may come under pressure when it comes to drugs, alcohol and tobacco
Learn that they are entitled to say "no" for all sorts of reasons, but not least in order to protect their God-given bodies

The aim of drugs education is to provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about drugs.
- Develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions to keep themselves safe and healthy.

- To enable pupils to explore their own and other people's attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users.

Use of Visitors

It is important to work closely with external agencies. Good drugs education involves partnership, often using the services of a Safer Schools Police officer and other external agencies such as the school nursing service.

Where visitors are used to support and extend classroom teaching, they should be used to complement the school's work for drugs education. In particular, a teacher should always be present and retain overall responsibility in the classroom.

Equal Opportunities

The school's equal opportunities policy applies to drugs education. Where appropriate teaching materials will reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of British society. We try to avoid stereotyping in regards to protected characteristics. Parents are always welcome to discuss these issues with staff.

Staff Training

We recognise that many staff are daunted by the prospect of teaching drugs education. A good teacher of drugs education does not need to be an authority on drugs. It is the life skills aspects that are so crucial to this area of the curriculum. Staff provide children with the opportunity to discuss drugs within a safe environment. The Subject Leader works closely with Islington Borough and takes advantage of the support, advice and training from Borough and local support services. Teachers have access to online supplementary teaching resources through the Islington CS Training and Service Hub.

Section 2: Conduct for pupils, staff and adults

Smoking

St John Evangelist Catholic Primary School is a non-smoking school for all staff, students and visitors. This includes when staff and parents are in charge of pupils on school trips.

Parents or Carers Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol

If a parent/carer comes to collect a child and is noticed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs and is unsafe to care for the child, the class teacher should inform a member of SLT who will speak to the parent. The child should not be allowed to leave with a parent when the staff member feels they would be unsafe.

The staff member who reports this to the Headteacher/ DSL needs to record this in writing in line with safeguarding reporting measures. The Headteacher and or DSL will decide on appropriate measures to be taken. Where necessary, provision will be made for the other parent or a relative to be contacted to come and collect the child.

Alcohol

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises except by the permission of the Head Teacher. Any adult under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school. There are occasions when alcohol is authorised at school during parent/ carer events and staff social events. Staff accompanying pupils on school trips and journeys are not permitted to drink when responsible for pupils.

Illegal Drugs

No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. To protect the health and safety of the school community regular checks will be made of the site to ensure that drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes, are cleared away safely and legally.

Hazardous Chemicals

Arrangements for the secure and safe storage of chemicals are set out in the Health and Safety Policy. The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of products such as solvents and aerosols (only exception permitted is any approved medicines administered in the presence of an adult and stored in the medicine cupboard).

Management of Drugs / Administration of Medicine

Children are not allowed to keep prescribed or over the counter medicine in their possession. For information on prescribed medication please see the Managing Medical Conditions in School Policy and Asthma Policy.

Section 3: Management of drug-related incidents

Defining a drug-related incident may include any or all of the following:

- drugs or drugs paraphernalia found on school premises;
- students in possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs;
- students supplying unauthorised or illegal drugs;
- students under the influence of drugs, or exhibiting signs of intoxication or illness;
- disclosure of drug use;
- information which suggest student(s) are involved in substance misuse;
- illegitimate sale/supply of drugs in the school vicinity.

If there are any suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs (possession, supply or imbibing):

- Utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, medical assistance will be sought immediately.
- The Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher (DSL) will be informed of the situation immediately.
- Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher as soon as possible in order to determine the facts. The emphasis will be on listening to what people have to say and asking open rather than closed or leading questions. Consideration will be given to separating any students involved in the incident and ensuring that a second adult witness is present.
- Where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug, they will be escorted to a senior member of staff who will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over voluntarily, in the presence of a second member of staff. Where the individual refuses, the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them, may exercise their statutory power to search the student(s) or their possessions, without consent. Education and Inspections Act 2006 (s93)

- Staff may search school property, for example, students' lockers, if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will always be sought. Individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused the school may wish to proceed with a search.
- After any search involving students where substances were suspected, parents/carers will normally be contacted by the school, regardless of whether the result of the search was positive or negative.
- Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated. In taking temporary possession of a suspected substance, a second adult witness will be present, the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date, time and witness present and then locked in the office.
- If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, the police will be notified immediately, in order that they may collect it for identification and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. In the majority of cases, parents will be notified immediately unless this is not in the best interests of the student.
- The Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher will inform, consult and involve others as necessary. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved.
- A detailed record of the incident will be made by the Headteacher and any member of staff present/ involved in reporting. A copy of the record will be kept by the Headteacher. There will be no other copies of the incidents.
- The school will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with police and other relevant agencies.

Responses to drug related incidents

- The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident. Any response will balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider community and will aim to provide the opportunity to learn from mistakes.
- While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, if an offence against the Misuse of Drugs Act is suspected or substantiated, it will be appropriate to consider contacting the police. If so, the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them, will make the call.
- If necessary, a meeting will take place on the same day as the incident, or as soon as possible (between the Headteacher and appropriate member of SLT) in order to decide whether others outside the school should be informed. These may include parents/carers, the appropriate personnel in the LA, Childrens' Social Care and police.
- Responses to / sanctions against students who commit drug offences will be decided following dialogue between the Headteacher, appropriate member(s) of staff, and other appropriate colleagues.
- Individuals may be referred to local support services who provide advice and information on drug-related issues (See Appendix One).

Possible responses include:

- targeted intervention
- referral
- counselling
- behaviour support plans
- inter-agency programmes
- fixed-term exclusion

- pastoral support programmes
- a managed move
- permanent exclusion

Responses and sanctions will take into account:

- the seriousness of the incident
- the short and long term welfare of the student(s) concerned
- the short and long term welfare of other students
- consistency with published school rules, codes and expectations
- consistency with disciplinary action for other drug related incidents
- consistency with disciplinary action for other misdemeanours.

APPENDIX ONE

Local support services

Islington commissions a range of local drug and alcohol services to provide advice, information and treatment for:

- Islington residents who would like help and support around their own drug or alcohol use.
- Islington residents who are concerned about a friend, family member or significant other's drug or alcohol use.

GP

A person's GP will be able to give advice, refer patients to specialist services or may run some specialist services themselves, such as smoking cessation. For full details of the surgeries with smoking cessation specialists see www.smokefreeislington.nhs.uk/quit-advice-by-appointment/

Pharmacies

Most pharmacies will be able to give advice and may run some specialist services themselves, such as smoking cessation. For full details of the pharmacies with smoking cessation specialists see www.smokefreeislington.nhs.uk/quit-advice-by-appointment/

Family Information Service

www.islington.gov.uk/fis

Information and advice about childcare, activities and services for parents and carers, children and young people.

Bright Futures – Early Help

[Find Your Islington | Bright Futures, Early Help 5-19 \(school-age to 19 years\)](#)

Supports families with school aged children up to 19 years old.

HumanKind

[Humankind – For fair chances \(humankindcharity.org.uk\)](http://humankindcharity.org.uk)

Free, confidential support for alcohol, drugs, housing or mental health.

HAGA

020 8800 6999

www.haga.co.uk

Raises awareness about alcohol and the local support services available.

Information and advice websites and helplines

- **FRANK**
0300 123 6600
www.talktofrank.com
Free, confidential advice about drugs for adults and young people.
- **ADFAM**
020 7928 8898
www.adfam.org.uk
Information and advice for families of drug and alcohol users – the website has a database of local family services.

- **Smokefree NHS**
www.nhs.uk/smokefree
National website encouraging people to quit smoking, with information and advice.
- **Change4life**
www.nhs.uk/Change4Life
Government health campaigns, information and advice on a health issues, including alcohol (Choose less booze).
- **Drink aware**
www.drinkaware.co.uk
Facts and advice about alcohol.