

Drugs Policy 2016

Monitoring

By	Review period	Method
Staff and Students committee	Bi-Annual	Meeting

Ownership: Clare Bailey, Assistant Principal for Behaviour and Attendance

Revision History

Review	Changes	Next review date
February 2016	Complete re-write to refresh and align to template. Update due to change in government guidance.	Feb 2017

DRUGS POLICY

Purpose

The college recognises the importance and duty to promote students wellbeing. This policy sets out the College's responsibilities for preventing and dealing with drug misuse.

St Joseph's Vision and Values and how this policy support this

Our College Vision statement states that:

"Our Catholic College seeks to be a community in which all are valued, where the life and the relationships of the College are permeated by Gospel values and in which the individual is seen as unique, with infinite potential for growth towards wholeness. The College, in active partnership with home, parish and the wider community, endeavours to prepare all its members for a future in which they will be able to make a positive contribution and take up the challenge of their faith."

This policy supports this by ensuring that students are supported in order to prevent and deal with drug misuse.

POLICY FORMATION AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

This policy has been updated following consultation with students, staff, parents, governors and outside agencies. The policy follows guidance outlined in the:

- Department for Education and Association of Chief Police Officers drug advice for schools. September 2012.
- Department of Education Searching, screening and confiscation. February 2014

The definition of a drug

A drug is any chemical you take that affects the way your body works.

For the purpose of this policy where the document refers to drugs, this includes alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances ("legal high") and volatile substances.

Illegal and unauthorized drugs, including tobacco are not acceptable within the boundaries of the College premises as outlined below.

AIMS OF THE POLICY

The aim of this policy is to clearly communicate to staff, governors, parents, carers, partner agencies, visitors and students:

- The manner in which drugs education will be delivered.
- The procedure to be followed should a student become involved in a drug-related incident.

- The support available.

Other College policies which have relevance to drugs education are:

- Equal Opportunities
- Safeguarding and child protection
- Sex and Relationship Education
- Behaviour/Anti-bullying
- Teaching and Learning
- Special Needs
- Health and Safety
- First Aid

Our College Drugs Co-ordinator is: Mrs. C Bailey **Assistant Principal for Behaviour and Attendance.**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs. K Sanders **Assistant Principal for KS4**

Our Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding is: Mrs. L Barrett

DRUG EDUCATION

The Governments' Drugs Strategy 2010 ensures that schools have the information, advice and power to:

- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education targeted information, including via FRANK services.
- Tackle problem behaviours in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation.
- Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drugs or alcohol misuse.

This College delivers drug education through:

- Citizenship and Life skills sessions.
- Science curriculum
- College Nurse
- U-turn (a specialist service that provides support, help and guidance to young people (and their families) who have alcohol and/or drug-related problems.
- The police

PROCEDURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS ON COLLEGE PREMISES

We define a **drug related incident** to be a situation or incident that becomes known to the College relating to:

- Discovering drugs or drug paraphernalia/equipment on College premises.
- A student disclosing drug use, or disclosing parental drug use.

- A student or staff member being under the influence of a drug.
- A student or staff member being in possession of a drug, either their own or for another person.
- A student having supplied a drug to another student on the College premises – this includes supplying a substance which they falsely claim is a drug.
- A student having arranged to supply a drug to another student whilst on the College premises.
- The supply of drugs in the vicinity of the College premises.
- A parent or carer being under the influence of a drug when collecting a child from College or on College premises.
- The taking of a drug on College premises, where the identity of the person is unknown or not verified.

College Premises:

The 2006 Education and Inspections Act outlines the provisions on the power to discipline for misbehaving outside the college premises “as to such an extent as is reasonable”. Subject to the behaviour policy, teachers may discipline for:

- Misbehavior when the students are
 - Taking part in any college-organised or college related activity
 - Travelling to or from college
 - Wearing college uniform
 - In some other way identifiable as a student from the college
- Misbehavior at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, that:
 - Could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school
 - Pose a threat to another student or members of the public
 - Could adversely affect the reputation of the college.

Searching and Confiscation

College staff have a statutory power to search a student or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item: Prohibited items include:

- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Tobacco and cigarette papers
- Smoking paraphernalia including electronic cigarettes and shisha pipes
- Any article that a member of staff reasonably suspects has been or

is like to be used to cause personal injury to any person (including the student)

Confiscation

College staff can seize any prohibited items found as a result of a search, they can also seize any item, however found, which they consider harmful or detrimental to college discipline.

There will be two members of staff present when using the college's powers to searching and confiscate.

Informing parents and carers

The College would normally inform the student's parents or carer where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found, although there is no legal requirement to do so.

Working with the police

The police will not normally need to be involved with an incident involving legal drugs.

Suspected controlled drugs:

When confiscating a suspected controlled drug, the college will:

- Ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- Seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of seizure/find and witness present;
- Lock the sample away until it can be collected by the police;
- Notify the police without delay, who will collect it and store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocol;
- Advise the police of the name of the student from whom the drugs were taken;
- Record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;
- Inform parents or carers, unless this is not in the best interest of the student;
- Identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response.

Responding to Drug Related Incidents

The wellbeing of the student is paramount.

The first concerns in managing drugs is the health and safety of the student and College's Community and meeting the pastoral needs of students.

If a student is suspected to be under the influence of a drug or alcohol on College premises the College will prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. If necessary it will be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and organising appropriate support. Depending on the circumstances, parents or carers or the police may be contacted. If the child is at risk the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services may be contacted.

Following actions to preserve health and safety, the emotional needs of students will be considered. This will include offering support through the pastoral system.

Interventions will be considered if the College feels that any student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or their parents or carers. Such interventions could include consultation with parents or carers and other agencies, completion of an Early Help Record and subsequent referral to services that can provide early interventions either within the College setting or externally.

Discipline

The college will take a balanced approach to dealing with a drug related incident taking into consideration the needs of the individual student and the wider College community.

- Permanent exclusion from College will rarely be considered, but may be used in serious cases.
- A range of sanctions and supportive interventions will be used.
- Safeguarding (Child Protection) the wellbeing of the student is paramount and the College will work with outside services such as the College Nurse, U Turn (Swindon's Young Persons Substance Misuse Service), Police, or Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will not be disclosed to anyone else unless appropriate. If a student discloses that they are using a drug without medical or parental authorisation, the safety of the young person will be the priority. Action will be taken to ensure the student is supported, which may include one-to-one drug education, sharing information with parents or carers, the College nurse and other external services

Managing Medicines

Some students may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. The process for ensuring that students have the appropriate access to their medicines is detailed in the first aid procedure.

PARENTS or CARERS UNDER THE INFLUENCE

A parent or carer attending the College under the influence should be regarded as a Safeguarding Children (Child Protection) concern, and appropriate action to safeguard the young person should be taken if necessary. This may include:

- Arranging for another parent or carer known to the young person to look after the young person.
- Arranging for the young person to remain in College until a responsible adult can collect them, i.e. the named contact on the emergency contacts list.
- Contact Police to report incident if parent or carer is abusive, aggressive or threatening to young person, staff or other members of the College community.
- Safeguarding Children (Child Protection) Officer to contact Social Services and make referral if appropriate.
- Arranging an appointment for the parent or carer to meet with College staff to discuss concerns and strategies for any future incidents.

The safety of the young person is paramount, and staff must follow the Colleges Safeguarding Children (Child Protection) Policy and Procedures.