

DRUGS POLICY



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Sharing the love and goodness of God with everyone

At the heart of this mission are two key teachings:

**Jesus said, "If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples"
(John 13:35)**

St Julie tells us, 'Ah qu'il et bon le bon Dieu' (How good is the good God)

How do we achieve this?

To carry out our mission we apply and evaluate ourselves against the 7 Hallmarks of the Notre Dame Learning Communities. The Hallmarks are the characteristics, values and activities of a Notre Dame learning community.

1. We proclaim by our lives even more than by our words that God is good.
2. We honour the dignity and sacredness of each person.
3. We educate for and act on behalf of justice and peace in the world.
4. We commit ourselves to community service.
5. We embrace the gift of diversity.
6. We create community among those with whom we work and with those we serve.
7. We develop holistic learning communities which educate for life.

Introduction & context

This policy is the school's response to 'Drug Advice for Schools' (Department for Education and Association of Chief Police Officers 2012). Its purpose is to ensure the safety of students and staff through school rules, procedures and the delivery of a high quality PSHE curriculum.

Relationship to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school or CMAT policies or advice from the Department for Education:

Behaviour

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Medicines

Equality Duty Act

Supporting Children with Medical Conditions

Privacy Notice

Information Sharing – Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers' (DfE March 2015)

Scope of this Policy

Unless explicitly stated otherwise this policy applies to all students, staff, volunteers and governors of the school.

For the purposes of this policy, a drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally such as:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), khat and alkyl nitrites (also known as poppers) and new psychoactive substances
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines
- any other illegal substances.

By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as: cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc. (This is not an example of, but not an exhaustive list due to the ever changing nature of drug abuse)

Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. the premises utilised for a school trip or visit.

For our Sixth Form Students who are allowed to leave site during free time e.g. study periods, break and lunchtimes, this means that our policy also applies to the areas around school where students congregate socially eg. The grounds of the Ranmoor Church, Ranmoor shops etc. This includes local places where numbers of our students congregate in a single place and are identifiable as being Notre Dame Students.

The school's stance towards drugs, health and the needs of pupils

The school considers that all drugs have the potential to cause harm if misused.

With the following exceptions, possession, use or supply of drugs or of equipment associated with drugs use within the school boundaries is unacceptable.

The only exceptions to this are:

Medicines: (See Supporting Students with Medical Conditions)

It may also be appropriate for staff and adult visitors to carry medication for personal use with them.

Volatile substances: see Health & Safety Policy as to how hazardous chemicals are legitimately used in school.

Alcohol may be occasionally authorised for consumption by adults over the age of 18 (not including students aged 18) as part of parent/carer, community or staff events. This is to include e.g. potential raffle prizes at the Summer Festival.

Tobacco: Staff and adult visitors may carry tobacco/e-cigarettes, but may not smoke on the school site.

Alcohol

No students may bring alcohol on to school premises or consume it during the course of a school day.

Any staff, students, parents, carers or 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. Parents will be asked to collect their children from the school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

Smoking

School premises are a no smoking site at all times. 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 and parents informed. Smoking within sight of the school premises will result in a suspension. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

Illegal drugs and "psychoactive substances"

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or

glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Responses to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or drug related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs or drug related paraphernalia by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs or drug related paraphernalia by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs or drug related paraphernalia on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents, staff or other students using drugs
- Hiding drugs or drug related paraphernalia in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider school community.

It must be understood by parents, students and staff that possession of /and or dealing in illegal drugs or drug related paraphernalia on site may lead to permanent exclusion for students and dismissal for staff.

The school will consider this option as part of its response to a breach of our Drugs Policy.

A member of the SMT will (normally) be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher.

Where the breach of the Drugs Policy includes criminal activity the incident will be reported to the police.

Drug Misuse outside the school premises

The school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

Individuals in possession of drugs

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug or drug related paraphernalia it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact a police officer for discussion and advice.

Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents and Carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the local authority, Police or GP. Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

Confidentiality

School will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate.

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student. Regarding disclosures, staff will follow the advice given in the Child Protection policy and at the annual safeguarding training.

Support for students

At our school the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement

with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'. We believe that early intervention, where possible, is significant. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in school (Counsellor, Head of Year, Pastoral Manager, Tutor, Inclusion and Attendance Officer)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support
- Working with the Police
- Working with Social Services

Right to Search

In line with recent legislation the staff at Notre Dame High School reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances, drug related paraphernalia or anything that is illegal or dangerous.

If students are found in locked places (such as toilets) together, the school will consider this to be suspicious and a potential breach of our Drugs Policy requiring a search of the students involved. It will also be considered a breach of our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy which will also require an appropriate response.

Searches will be carried out by a member of the Pastoral Team of the same gender as the student and Parents and Carers will always be informed when this has happened.

If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in intimate searches and the confiscation of items. In the case of an intimate search the school will arrange for a parent or an appropriate adult to be present to support the student involved.

Similarly, the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of legal action, if any, should be taken.

Information sharing

Following a drug incident, the school will share information as required and appropriate in line with:

The Data Protection Act

School Privacy Notices

'Information Sharing – Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers' (DfE March 2015)

Useful Organisations

Alcohol Change uk works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems

Tel: 020 3907 8480 Email: contact@alcoholchange.org.uk

Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 020 7404 0242 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: <https://ash.org.uk/>

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.

Tel: 01206 714 650 (general queries only) Email: info@coramclc.org.uk

Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7766 9900 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drugwise is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugwise.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0300 123 6600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com;

Website:

www.talktofrank.com

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0808 800 2222 Website: www.familylives.org.uk

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse)

A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Text: 07496 959930 Information line: 01785 810762. Email: info@re-solv.org

Website: www.re-solv.org

The Corner

If you are aged between 10 and 18 and live in Sheffield, we can give you advice about drinking and drugs.

We won't judge you and we won't tell you what to do. The service is free and confidential.

Website: <https://www.changegrowlive.org/>