



St Mary's Catholic School

Drug Education Policy

The possession, use or supply of drugs in the context of St Mary's Catholic School is totally forbidden. Any such instance will be viewed as an extremely serious disciplinary matter and will in most instances lead to permanent exclusion. Staff and students should ensure that all cases of misuse of drugs, or suspected misuse are reported to the Senior Leadership Team SLT and DSP in particular immediately.

In all instances involving substance misuse, possession or supply parents/carers will be informed as soon as practically possible. The school will consider each drug related incident separately and consider the appropriate response, bearing in mind the circumstances of the case, and the need to balance the interests of the student concerned as well as the effect on the entire school body. The school has consulted with parents and invited to comment on the policy set.

The Governing Body considers that it is essential that parents and students are clear about the normal sanction that will be applied in particular instances, as follows:

- A student who supplies any drugs or other solvents/synthetic/harmful substances (whether legal or illegal and regardless of the seriousness of the use) in the school context will, except in exceptional circumstances be permanently excluded as will the student in possession.
- There is a planned Drugs Education Programme in place for staff, students and parents.
 - Inform students about drugs and their effects;
 - Promote a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle;
 - Increase students' understanding of the health and social implications of the use and misuse of drugs

St Mary's Catholic School Drugs Policy works in accordance with the following two government guidance documents and are in addition to other school policies e.g. behaviour policy and trip policy.

- 1) DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools Advice for local authorities, Headteachers, school staff and governing bodies (published September 2012)
- 2) Searching, screening and confiscation Advice for Headteachers, school staff and governing bodies (published January 2018)

Governor Committee: Resources Committee

Date of Review: February 2020

Next Review Date: February 2021