



C7 Drug Education Policy

The possession, use or supply of drugs in the context of St Mary's Catholic School is strictly forbidden. Any such instance will be treated as an extremely serious disciplinary matter and likely to lead to a permanent exclusion, particularly in cases involving the supply of drugs. All staff and students must report any instances of drug misuse or suspected misuse to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Designated Safeguarding Lead 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 evaluate each drug related incident individually, considering the specific circumstances and need to balance the interests of the students involved with the overall safety and well-being of the school community.

The Governing Body emphasises the importance of clarity regarding the sanctions that will be applied in drug related incidents:

- A student who supplies any drugs, solvents synthetic substances, or harmful substances (whether legal or illegal) within the school context will, except in exceptional circumstances, face permanent exclusion. The same applies to any student found in possession of such substances.
- St Mary's Catholic school is committed to fostering a comprehensive Drug Education Programme for staff, students, and parents, which includes:
 - Informing students about drugs and their effects
 - Promote a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle
 - Increasing students' understanding of the health and social implications of drug use and misuse.

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 July 2023)

Review

School Education Committee

Date of Last Review: June 2026

Date of Next Review: June 2027