



# St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School



## Policy on Drug Education

Policy Written & Agreed:

Ratified by Full Governing Body:

To be reviewed:

September 2022

September 2023



**St. Nicholas**  
**Whole School Policy on Drug Education**

This Drug Education policy:-

- reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole staff;
- was discussed, written and agreed by the whole staff;
- has been approved by the Governing body.

The implementation and ownership of this policy is the responsibility of the whole staff.

The overall accountability and effectiveness of the policy will be the responsibility of the Executive Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team.

At St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School we take a professional approach to health care. We believe that drug education is an important part of our children's education and will do everything in our power to ensure our children understand that there are good drugs and bad drugs which affect our bodies and that knowledge gives them the power to make the right choices where drugs are concerned.

As a Catholic school we regard every individual as unique and special in God's family. This policy is designed to support every member of our school, taking into account their unique and special nature as part of God's family.

## **RATIONALE**

There is a justified concern about the incidence of drug misuse among the young. The average age of first misuse of drugs appears to be falling and the range of drugs available is expanding. Drug misuse now affects many communities and crosses gender, ethnic and social boundaries. Research has shown that primary school children are surprisingly aware of both legal and illegal drugs and the misuse of other substances.

Children and young people are influenced by information and images about drugs from a variety of sources; in the home, through the media, popular music and by mixing with older people who have knowledge of, or use, drugs.

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School can play an important role in enabling children to make informed, healthy and responsible decisions. It is to this end that we at St. Nicholas include drug education as an important element of the planned Science and PSHE programme which outlines the progression of knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes through the Key Stages.

## **AIMS**

- To enable pupils to develop a knowledge and understanding of drugs and their effects which are appropriate to their needs.
- To raise the self-esteem of pupils to enable them to say no to drug misuse.

### **1.0 Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to relevant legislation and guidance, including, but not limited to the following:

- 'DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools' – September 2012
- 'DfE Guidance. Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education' – September 2013
- DfE (2016) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- The Education Act 2011
- The Health Act 2006

This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the school's:

- **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**
- **Health and Safety Policy**
- **PSHE Policy**
- **Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy**

### **2.0 Key roles and responsibilities**

The Head Teacher is responsible for dealing with any alcohol and drug related issues within the school.

### 3.0 Definitions

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School defines a “drug” as any substance which, when ingested alters perception and the way the body works. This definition includes, but is not limited to:

- All illegal substances, Alcohol, Tobacco, Solvents, Medicines, Legal highs, etc,...

### 4.0 Staff training

At St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School, we recognise that early intervention can prevent drug misuse. As such, teachers will receive training in identifying pupils who may be at risk.

Teachers and support staff will receive drug training as part of their safeguarding training during their induction process. Teachers and support staff will receive regular and ongoing training as part of their professional development.

### 5.0 Drug education

All pupils will receive regular guidance on drugs and alcohol as part of the PSHE & Citizenship curriculum.

Drugs and alcohol will feature regularly as part of pastoral education in the form of classes and assemblies.

Lessons will be delivered as appropriate to the age and phase of the pupils and will be differentiated according to individual learning styles.

Where appropriate, visitors and external speakers will join us to lead classes on drug and alcohol misuse.

#### 5.1 DRUG EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM

Drug education is best led by classroom teachers within the context of the Science and PHSE curriculum, with an awareness of any personal, pupil specific circumstances within the class and how other areas of the curriculum can make a valuable contribution.

Other National Curriculum subjects offer opportunities to further drug education.

- English can provide opportunities to:
  - Explore relevant issues through literature
  - Develop communication skills by formulating, clarifying, expressing ideas and arguments
  - Develop inter-personal skills through drama or role play
  - Make considered use of a range of reference materials
- Religious Education can provide opportunities to:
  - Develop awareness of safety hazards and risks when using drugs
  - Use information sources to assess the risk of unfamiliar materials to make conscious informed decisions
  - Take responsibility for the consequences and the actions of themselves and others

#### 5.2 DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Drug Education Programme is complimented by the local ‘Education for Life’ drug awareness workshops which form part of our PSHE Curriculum. Education for Life visit the school annually, delivering differentiated, age specific lessons to every pupil in the school.

## **6.0 Smoking**

In accordance with Part 1 of the Health Act 2006, St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School is a smoke free environment. This includes all buildings, out-buildings, playgrounds, playing fields and sheltered areas.

Parents, visitors and staff must not smoke on school grounds and will avoid smoking in front of pupils and/or encouraging pupils to smoke.

Pupils are not permitted to bring smoking or nicotine products onto the premises. This includes, but is not limited to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, lighters, matches and pipes.

In the interest of health and hygiene, smoking will not be permitted at, or around, the school gates.

## **7.0 Legal drugs and prescribed medicines**

We understand that some pupils may require medications that have been prescribed by a doctor, or other health professional.

Parents have the primary responsibility for their child's health and should provide the school with all relevant information about their child's medical condition.

Medicines should only be brought onto the premises if it would be detrimental to the child's health if medicines were not administered during their time at the school.

The school will only accept medicines which have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist.

Medicines must be provided in the original container as dispensed and must include the prescriber's instructions for administration and dosage.

Further guidance can be found in the school's Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy.

## **8.0 Solvents**

Pupils are not permitted to bring solvent based products onto the premises including, but not limited to, aerosol deodorants, compressed air, and aerosol hairspray.

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous solvents are stored safely and pupils will be supervised if they are required to come into contact with them.

## **9.0 Persons found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol**

Staff members found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst on school premises will be disciplined in line with their contract of employment.

Visitors to the school found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school grounds will be escorted from the premises. The Head Teacher has the authority to ban persistent offenders from the school.

Unless it is a medical emergency, or where there is aggressive or threatening behaviour, pupils found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst on school premises will be removed from class and escorted to the Head Teacher's office, where they will be assessed.

The pupil's parent will be asked to remove the pupil from the premises. The pupil will remain in the Head Teacher's office until their parent arrives. If necessary, a search will be conducted.

## **10.0 Medical Emergencies**

In drug related medical emergencies, trained first aiders will be summoned.

A teacher will remain with the casualty until the trained first aider arrives.

Other pupils will be removed from the immediate area, as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Following assessment by the first aider, a decision will be made to ascertain whether an ambulance will be called.

The pupil's parents will be telephoned and told about the incident.

If the pupil is felt to be at risk, the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will come into effect and social services will be contacted.

All accidents and incidents, including near misses or dangerous occurrences, will be reported as soon as possible following the school's Health and Safety Policy.

## **11.0 Threatening behaviour**

Aggressive and threatening behaviour by pupils, staff or visitors under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be taken very seriously.

Where aggressive and/or threatening behaviour is displayed, St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School will not hesitate in contacting the police.

Any pupil, staff member or visitor displaying aggressive and/or threatening behaviour will be removed from the premises.

In the case of pupils, parents will be contacted.

## **12.0 Searching**

Staff members may use common law to search pupils with their consent for any item.

Staff members may ask any student to turn out their pockets.

Staff members may search any student's coat, bag, backpack or locker.

Under part 2, section 2 of the Education Act 2011, teachers are authorised by the Head Teacher to search for any prohibited item including, but not limited to tobacco and cigarette papers, as well as illegal drugs and alcohol, without the consent of the pupil if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item.

Searches will be conducted by a same sex member of staff with another same sex staff member as a witness, unless there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not done immediately, and where it is not practicable to summon another member of staff.

Staff members may require a pupil to remove outer clothing including hats, scarves, boots, coats and scarves.

Pupils' possessions will only be searched in the presence of the pupil and another member of staff unless there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not done immediately, and where it is not practicable to summon another member of staff.

Staff members may use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances when conducting a search for alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco products.

Any staff member, except for security staff, may refuse to conduct a search.

A staff member carrying out the search can confiscate anything they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item. This includes “legal highs” and other potentially harmful materials which cannot immediately be identified.

### **13.0 Controlled substances**

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School has a zero tolerance policy on illegal drugs.

Following the identification and confiscation of a controlled substance, a staff member will seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the confiscation and the name of any witness/witnesses present. The staff member will store the sample in a secure location.

The incident will be reported immediately to the police who will collect the sample and then deal with it in line with agreed protocols.

St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School will not hesitate in giving the police the name of the pupil, from whom the drugs were taken.

A full incident report will be completed and submitted to the Head Teacher.

Any further measures will be undertaken in line with the school’s Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Where controlled substances are found on school trips away from the school premises, parents of the pupil, as well as local police, will be notified.

### **14.0 Discipline**

Pupils involved in drug and/or alcohol situations on school premises will be disciplined as per the school’s disciplinary procedure and, where appropriate, the police will be informed.

Teachers and staff members involved in drug and/or alcohol situations on school premises will be disciplined as per their contract of employment and, where appropriate, the police will be informed.

Visitors involved in drug and/or alcohol situations on school premises will be banned from entering school premises indefinitely and, where appropriate, the police will be informed.

### **15.0 Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Head Teacher.

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## Appendix A - Useful Organisations

**Addaction** is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.

Website: [www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)

**ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. **Tel: 020 7553 7640**. Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk)

Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Alcohol Concern** 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 7264 0510**. Email: [contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk)

Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://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 7739 5902**. Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk)

Website: [www.ash.org.uk](http://www.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 877910**. Email: [clc@essex.ac.uk](mailto:clc@essex.ac.uk)

Website: [www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)

**Children's Rights Alliance for England** - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: [info@crae.org.uk](mailto:info@crae.org.uk)

Website: [www.crae.org.uk](http://www.crae.org.uk)

**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 7307 7450**.

Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

**Drinkline** - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. **Tel: 0800 917 8282**. (lines are open 24 hours a day)

**Drug Education Forum** – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners:

Website: [www.drugeducationforum.com](http://www.drugeducationforum.com)

**DrugScope** 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](mailto:info@drugscope.org.uk)

Website: [www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.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: 0800 776600**.

Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com) Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

**Mentor UK** is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. **Tel: 020 7739 8494**. Email: [admin@mentoruk.org](mailto:admin@mentoruk.org)

Website: [www.mentoruk.org.uk](http://www.mentoruk.org.uk)

**National Children's Bureau** promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. **Tel: 020 7843 6000**. Website: [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)



**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: 0800 800 2222.**

Website: <http://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. **Tel: 01785 817885.** Information line: 01785 810762

Email: [information@re-solv.org](mailto:information@re-solv.org)

Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

**Smokefree** - NHS Smoking **Helpline: 0800 169 0169.** Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

**Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: [www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk](http://www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk)

**Youth Offending Teams** – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>