

Saint Peter's Catholic School
Drug's Policy

Introduction

Purpose of the policy:

An up-to-date policy clarifies the school's approach to drugs and provides a basis on which to evaluate what has been achieved and where improvements may be necessary. It also provides a secure framework within which staff can work and enables pupils to understand what is expected of them and their rights.

All staff receive annual Safeguarding Training which includes the use of drugs. The designated member of staff with overall responsibility is Mrs Murphy, Headteacher.

Definition of Drugs:

Following on from the United Nations information on Drugs we define a drug as 'a substance people take to change the way they think, feel or behave'.

For the purpose of this policy the term drug includes:

- All illegal drugs, those controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act, such as cannabis, heroin, cocaine, crack, magic mushrooms, LSD and amphetamines etc.
- All legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (solvents), caffeine (as in soft drinks, tea and coffee and caffeine tablets), nitrates (poppers).
- All prescription, over-the-counter and off-the-shelf medicines, as well as many herbal remedies (a list of these drugs with the relevant pupil's name should be kept in the school office – this includes analgesics such as paracetamol and ibuprofen).

The Drug Education Programme

Aims and Approach:

The school's drug education programme aims to:

Increases pupil's knowledge and understanding about:

- The short and long term risks of drugs
- The rules and law relating to drugs
- The impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
- The complex moral, social and emotional and political issues surrounding drugs

Develop pupil's personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy.

Enable pupils to explore their own and other people's attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences.

Organisation in the Curriculum:

Drug education is taught through the discrete Personal Development curriculum. Pupils receive drug education from Year 7 to Year 11 via this curriculum and tutor period.

Management of Drug Incidents and Support for Pupils Who Experience Drug Problems

Different types of drug incidents:

There are three main types of drug incidents:

Type 1: Pupils approach staff and make disclosures about their own or other people's involvement with drugs and seek advice and support. These incidents do not necessarily involve school rules being broken.

Type 2: Suspicion or definite evidence of a pupil(s) involvement with drugs without them initially disclosing this to staff. Such incidents may involve school rules being broken.

Type 3: Evidence of drug use or supply, or finding drugs or drug paraphernalia without knowing who is involved.

NB Premises includes buildings used on residential trips. Incidents include students travelling to and from school whilst in uniform.

Procedures for managing incidents:

Assessment of drug incidents:

The first step in dealing with suspicion, allegation or rumour is usually to carefully monitor the situation in a low key manner. This might include discrete observation of the pupils and checking out with other members of staff and pupils in a general manner. It may be helpful to make a confidential, dated record of any rumours or suspicions to refer back to later.

Whatever the type of drug incident it is crucial to talk with pupils about their involvement with drugs in a way that develops trust and an open dialogue.

Do

- Stay calm
- Clarify issues of confidentiality with the pupil (see school confidentiality policy)
- Encourage them to be able to talk openly
- Wherever possible ask open ended, rather than closed questions
- Listen carefully to what they have to say and how they feel
- Try to keep the focus on the pupil rather than the drugs
- Keep the matter in perspective
- Help the pupil to assess any risks in a realistic way
- Only give information you are sure is accurate
- Avoid suggesting judgements of pupil actions
- Make a written record of any serious concerns you have or actions that you have taken

• Don't

- Overreact, shout at, threaten or interrogate the pupil
- Bombard the pupil with lots of closed questions – such as “who?”, “when?”, “where?” etc. Allow them to explain at their pace
- Keep asking “Why did you do it?”. This is often a very difficult question to answer
- Promise to maintain confidentiality if you may not later be able to do so
- Assume you have to do anything immediately
- Expect pupils to share your views about drugs

Staff should offer support to pupils who are known to be adversely affected by, or concerned about, their parent/carers drug use. Where necessary and appropriate pupils can be referred to specialist support agencies (please see Appendix 1). Support may also be offered to parents/carers, including referral to appropriate services.

The law, legal obligations and working with the police:

If staff know that a pupil, parent/carer or anyone else, has been using illegal drugs, or supplying them, on school premises or anywhere else they do not have a legal obligation to inform the police. Staff should not hesitate to call for police assistance in situations where violence occurs that is a threat to health and safety.

To decide whether or not to inform the police about a particular drug incident the following questions should be considered:

- How serious is the drug incident?
- Is the pupil(s) breaking the law? (See Appendix 2 for the Misuse of Drugs Act.)
- What might the police be told and will individual pupils be named?
- What are the likely consequences of informing the police (both positive and negative) on individual pupils involved, their families, other pupils and the school as a whole?

Emergencies and First Aid:

When there are serious concerns about the immediate health of a pupil an ambulance should be called. This must take precedence over any other actions. If there is evidence of what the pupil has taken this should be given to the ambulance or hospital staff. Parents/carers need to be informed unless there is clear evidence to the contrary.

Informing parents/carers:

There is no legal duty to inform parents/carers of pupils who disclose information about drug use. However, with most drug incidents it will be in the best interest of the pupil that their parents/carers are informed.

When informing parents/carers:

- Try to involve the pupil in the discussion
- Help parents to remain calm and keep matters in perspective
- Avoid informing parents in ways that are likely to increase their anxieties or cause problems in the family.
- Listen to parents/carers and their concerns
- Provide information about relevant support and services that can be accessed by both parents/carers and the pupil
- Encourage them to help, not punish the pupil

Referring pupils to specialist support:

Referrals should go through the DSL.

Use of sanctions:

The following sanctions may be used in drug incidents:

- 1) Removal of certain privileges
- 2) School report
- 3) Detentions
- 4) Fixed term exclusion
- 5) Permanent exclusion

NB the above will be in accordance to a full investigation of the incident and the circumstances of the pupil involved.

Parents/carers, where necessary, will be informed of the sanctions that will be followed.

Disposal of injecting equipment:

If staff find used injection equipment they can dispose of it in the following way:

- Keep pupils clear of the area

- Carefully pick it up and, if possible, avoid handling the syringe. Consider sweeping it into a dustpan or piece of card or newspaper or using a litter picking device.
- If you need to pick up the syringe, where possible use protective gloves, it is not advisable to use bare hands. Hold it carefully by the barrel and avoid handling the needle. Hold it so that the needle points away from the body and take care not to prick anyone else with it.
- Put the whole syringe into a sturdy container, such as a screw top jar etc.
- Seal the container. Arrange for collection by telephoning 0121 704 8000 (disposal services).
- In the event of a needlestick injury or contamination incident involving human blood or other body fluids immediate action should be taken as follows:
 - ✓ Wash the site liberally with soap and water (without scrubbing)
 - ✓ Irrigate mucous membranes/conjunctivae with large quantities of water
 - ✓ Bleeding must be encouraged for puncture wounds. Do not suck the site.
 - ✓ Report the incident immediately to a first aid trained member of staff.

Dealing with the media:

Staff who are approached by a reporter should take the details of the reporter's newspaper, company etc. and let them know someone from school will be in touch with them soon.

Staff should then inform the Leadership Team of the situation.

Under no circumstances attempt to answer media questions.

Appendix 1: Local support Services

Healthy Schools Co-ordinator:

Solihull Care Trust, 2nd Floor, Mell House, 46 Drury Lane, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3BU. Tel: 0121 742 4534.

Works closely with the Healthy Schools Team and nurse practitioners to promote the National Healthy Schools Programme to schools, as well as auditing and Quality Assuring schools who apply for National Healthy Schools Status, including working on drugs and SRE

On Track:

Windy Arbor School, Woodlands Way, Chelmsley Wood, Solihull, B37 6RN. Tel: 0121 788 3466.

Offer support and help to children aged 4-13 and their families, providing a range of group sessions in and out of school.

Str8up:

Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Service, Keepers Lodge, Chelmsley Road, Chelmsley Wood, Solihull B37 7RS. Tel: 0121 788 5390.

A service for young people who are having difficulty with drugs, alcohol or solvents. They also provide services for children and young people affected by parental substance misuse. Their services include counselling, intensive one-to-one support, activity based group work, prescribing, relapse prevention and harm reduction.

Welcome Counselling service:

15 Larch Croft, Chelmsley Wood, Solihull, B37 7RS. Tel: 0121 678 4730.

Welcome is an adult service providing support, information and counselling about drugs.

Youth Offending Team:

Keepers Lodge, Chelmsley Road, Chelmsley Wood, Solihull, B37 7RS. Tel: 0121 779 1720.

Work on prevention of offending by children and young people, identifying and dealing with young offenders and reducing the risk of re-offending.

Early Help/Engage ?

Appendix 2: The Misuse of Drugs Act

The Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) regulates what are termed controlled drugs. It divides drugs into three classes as follows:

Class A: These include the active ingredients of cannabis, cocaine and crack (a form of cocaine), ecstasy, heroin, LSD, methadone, magic mushrooms, opium, and any class B drug which is injected.

Class B: These include amphetamines, barbiturates, codeine and Ritalin.

Class C: These include mild amphetamines, anabolic steroids, cannabis, GHB, ketamine and tranquilisers.

Offences under the MDA include:

- Possession of a controlled drug – for personal use
- Possession with intent to supply to another person – where someone intends to supply others. Having a larger amount of drugs, having it packaged that indicates supply, having weighing scales etc. are common signs
- Production, cultivation or manufacture of controlled drugs – most commonly growing cannabis plants
- Supplying another person with a controlled drug – whether or not money changes hands (e.g. sharing a “spliff”)
- Import or export of controlled drugs
- Knowingly allowing premises you own, occupy or manage to be used for the administration or smoking of cannabis or opium, or the supply, or production or cultivation of any controlled drug

NB Certain controlled drugs such as amphetamines, barbiturates, heroin, methadone, Ritalin and tranquilisers can sometimes be obtained on prescription. In such cases their possession is not illegal.

Maximum penalties under the MDA are as follows:

	Possession	Trafficking
Class A drug	7 years + fine	Life + fine
Class B drug	5 years + fine	14 years + fine
Class C drug	2 years + fine	14 years + fine

Trafficking includes possession with intent to supply, supply, production and manufacture and import and export.