



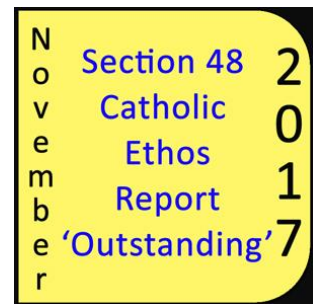
Saint John Wall Catholic School

A Catholic School For All



Mission Statement

'To educate each and every unique child in our care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be'



Drugs & Misuse of Substances Policy

"... do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20



Statement of Policy

Saint John Wall Catholic School seeks to educate our pupils and to help them develop into mature young people able to say no to drugs.

The school condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school nor the illegal supply of these substances.

The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward.

Aims

We believe and support the following aims in respect of substance use and misuse:

- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug abuse.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues, eg sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.
- To teach pupils about the risks drug users face.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Implementation

We hope to achieve these aims through a planned and monitored whole school approach which will involve curriculum work as well as general pastoral guidance.

Part 1

Drug Related Incidents

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing body, parents and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment of those staff within the school, who will have responsibility for handling the implementation of the policy. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

The paramount concern of the school will be the safety and well-being of all pupils.

Controlled Drugs

In instances involving substance misuse or supply and following discussion between staff members, who know the pupil well, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Headteacher. We would hope that, in most circumstances, school and parents can work together to support the young person involved. The school will take any matter relating to drugs and their supply very seriously. However each incident will be dealt with individually and we recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. In dealing with incidents the school will seek to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other school members and the wider community. Permanent exclusion **may** sometimes be appropriate (see Behaviour Policy). The Police will always be informed.

Cigarettes and Matches

Students are forbidden to bring cigarettes, lighters and matches on to the school premises. If found smoking they will be punished and referred to the school nurse. Neither are students allowed to smoke on the way to or from school while wearing school uniform, nor on school visits.

Alcohol

Students are not allowed to bring alcohol on to the premises nor to drink alcohol on the way to or from school. Temporary exclusion may follow for breaches of this rule.

Medicines or Other Drugs

Students are forbidden to bring any harmful drugs into school unless they are for medication. In this case a letter from the parent must accompany the drugs: the office will look after tablets on request.

No proprietary cleaning fluids or Tippex which could be addictive can be brought into school.

Role of Staff On Site

All drug instances including cigarettes and alcohol should be taken seriously and a member of staff who discovers drugs should take the following action:

- Check the safety of the abuser: refer to a first aider if necessary. (See the attached sheet 'what to do in an emergency').
- Make a clear record of what has been discovered or observed.
- Inform the appropriate Pastoral Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher who will investigate the matter further.

Role of Staff Off Site

If the drugs are discovered on a school visit, the member of staff in charge of the party should use their discretion on the appropriate action at the time and should inform the Deputy Headteacher on the return of the visit.

If a pupil admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the Deputy Headteacher must always be informed.

Guidance on the Discovery of Drugs

There are two circumstances when harmful or illegal drugs may be legally removed:

- From a place within the school's jurisdiction.
- From a person within the school's jurisdiction.

From a Place

If possible remove the drug in the presence of a witness. Do not let children touch. Do not use a bare hand to remove LSD (acid) tabs or used syringes.

From a Person

If possible retrieve the drugs from a pupil **IN THE PRESENCE OF A WITNESS**.

DfEE Circular 4/95 states:

It is open to members of staff to search a pupil's desk or locker where he or she has reasonable cause to believe it contains unlawful items, including illegal drugs. Where pupils are suspected of concealing illegal drugs on their person, every effort should first be made to secure the voluntary production of any unlawful substances, for example by asking them to turn out their pockets. If a pupil refuses, the police should be called in to deal with the situation. Intimate physical searches should never be made by a teacher.

Always

Remove the drug and record the time, place and circumstances by which the drug came to you.

Do not investigate the substance. Record the size, number and appearance. Have a witness countersign recordings.

Take the drug immediately to the Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher. Do not keep the drug on your person or property.

Place the substance in a sealed container. Ask a witness to sign and date the package. Write a report listing the time, date and circumstance of finding the drug. Keep the pupil under close supervision; watch their every movement carefully in case they try to dispose of any drug they may still have.

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to decide the hand over of drugs as discussed under the law (see circular 4/95).

Ratified by Governors: 15/10/2018

Next Review Due: 15/10/2021

(This policy will remain in force beyond the review date if no updates are required)