



St. Mark's Catholic School policy on drugs

At St. Mark's we do not condone the misuse of drugs, including alcohol. We are committed to tackling drug misuse among young people and that any instances of possession, use or supply of illegal drugs on school premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness.

Definition

A drug is defined as a substance that can change the way a human body works, either physiologically or psychologically. This policy will encompass all drugs:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco – No smoking policy
- Other legal drugs e.g. caffeine
- Over the counter medicines e.g. paracetamol, cough medicine – see medicine policy.
- Volatile substances e.g. aerosols, butane, petrol
- Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, LSD, ecstasy, heroin

St Mark's stance on drugs in school

- St Mark's is a no smoking school building at all times
- pupils' medicines will be dealt with in line with the medicine policy
- pupils are not allowed to be in possession of or use, alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters, sniffable products or any illegal drug, at any time.
- alcohol is **not permitted** to be drunk by staff at school on any occasion

Policy Development and Consultation

This policy has been written in consultation with staff, parents, pupils and Governors of St. Mark's School.

Aims and Objectives of drug education and programme

- Drug education can bring about an understanding of the drugs with which our pupils may expect to come into contact. Through drug education we aim to build their self-esteem, skills and the understanding of their own role in preserving their health and welfare.
- In addition in building our pupil's competence, we also aim to build their confidence in using their knowledge and skills to make careful decisions.
- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well being of all pupils.
- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices and are responsible for their actions.
- To give pupils the knowledge of how and when to get help from adults.

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- To provide clear guidance for staff, parents and governors.

Content of Drugs Education

- In line with National curriculum guidelines for science and PSHE/Citizenship.
- Cross-curricular links (Health days, assemblies, circle time/ Time to Talk (TTT), SEAL and Year 6 transition projects as appropriate).
- Using TEN:TEN resources which form our RSHE education.

Methods

The delivery of St Mark’s drug education will be taught as part of the RSHE curriculum, Science Curriculum and the cross curricular links (see above). The methods used to deliver the education can include discussions, quizzes, role-play, problem solving, risk assessment and informed decision making.

Outside Speakers

Outside speakers may be involved in aspects of drug education. Their contribution will be planned as part of an overall programme. The delivery will be evaluated by the SLT, ensuring that they reinforce the policy. Any outside speaker or agency will be made aware of our guiding principles and will give the ‘same message’ as the school.

Managing Drug Related Incidents

Our guiding principles are:

- The safety and welfare of all pupils and staff.
- The welfare of individual pupils deemed to be at risk.
- The law concerning drugs.

With these principles in mind, St Mark’s School has the following procedure in place:

- If any pupil is suspected to be in possession of an unauthorised drug, the Senior Leadership Team/ a Designated Safeguarding Lead will be notified immediately
- If a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, every effort should be made to secure the voluntary production of the drug. This should be carried out by a member of the Senior Leadership Team/ a Designated Safeguarding Lead. School property (such as drawers) may be searched.
- If an unauthorised drug is discovered, it will be confiscated by the Senior Leadership Team/ a Designated Safeguarding Lead and brought to the Head Teacher’s room.
- A record of the incident will be made, using our school’s MyConcern system.
- No member of staff will attempt to analyse or taste the substances.
- The substance will be placed in the school safe (in the presence of the Senior Leadership Team/ a Designated Safeguarding Lead).
- Each case will be judged on its own merits. The range of sanctions used for rule breaking will be similar to those for other transgressions and will depend on the nature and gravity of the offence.

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- The Headteacher will inform the relevant department at Birmingham LEA and seek advice. If necessary, advice will be sought about communication with the media. Staff are not permitted to speak to the media in relation to the unauthorised drug found or confiscated.
- Parents/carers will be informed by the Senior Leadership Team/ a Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Consideration will be given to the Child Protection Guidelines. If criminal behaviour is involved, the Senior Leadership Team/ a Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact the Police School's Liaison Officer for confidential advice.
- Exclusion will be considered in serious cases and will be in line with DfE guidance on exclusions. If exclusion is likely, the substance will be placed in a sealed container with a written record of the response attached to it. If exclusion is unlikely, the substance will be disposed of in consultation with the Police or Birmingham LEA.
- If any pupil is thought to be 'under the influence' medical help will be sought at once and first aid given if required. The priority is the pupil's safety and this would not be an appropriate time to question the pupil. Qualified first-aiders would give this medical help.

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body. It will be updated in light of any changes in the classification of drugs, local issues, incidents guidance and recommended practice. Once the review has been completed, it will be disseminated to staff and governors. If a child supplies an illegal drug then reference should be made to St. Mark's Exclusion Policy.

Policy reviewed: January 2021

Next Review Date: July 2022