



# **St Aloysius College**

## **Drugs Policy**

This Drugs Policy was evolved by consideration between staff and governors and was approved on .....

This policy will be reviewed on .....

# Drugs Policy

## Aims of the Drugs Policy

It is the responsibility of schools to help reduce the harm from drugs and play a role in drug prevention and help those who misuse drugs. This policy aims to give a clear view on the use of drugs in school and the importance of drug education. The policy emphasises the school's pastoral role and proactive approach to drug education and a clear view on the problem of drug use in school. Heads of Year will have an overview of the implementation of this policy.

In developing this policy the school has considered the legal responsibility, the needs and responsibilities of students, teachers, governors and parents.

## A Definition of Drugs

Drugs are substances that alter the mind or the body. This policy is concerned with legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs such as tranquillisers and pain killers and illegal drugs such as ecstasy, cannabis, cocaine, crack and heroin.

## Drug Education and Drug Prevention

St. Aloysius' College aims to provide a comprehensive and planned drug education curriculum as part of the health education curriculum and aims to provide all students with knowledge, attitudes and skills to be able to make informed decisions about drugs.

**Drug education is addressed through the PSHE curriculum and the Science curriculum. This involves lessons during dedicated PSHE days and the drug education modules of the core Science curriculum at both KS3 and KS4. The school participates in Red Ribbon Week in April. This involves anti-drug assemblies and videos and worksheets to be completed during form periods for that week.** The school acknowledges that a positive school ethos helps pupils to feel valued as part of the school community and in doing so helps to foster positive self images which may help students cope better in situations involving drug use.

## Code of Practice for Medication using Drugs

### *Use of Paracetamol, Aspirin and Personal Medications*

No member of staff is allowed to give casual medication to students or staff whether in school or on school trips. Casual medication in this instance includes anything from painkilling drugs and cold cures, to Vaseline creams and eye drops.

At the beginning of every school year parents are asked to complete an updated contact sheet (address, telephone number, emergency contact etc).

Parents must make special requests in writing to the Head of Year asking the first aid officer, or nominated person, to administer a drug during a current medical condition but before complying with this request the Head of Year may need clarification from the student's GP.

No student should carry painkillers and no student must ever give painkillers to another student.

If painkillers, like paracetamol and aspirin, are necessary they must be given, with a letter from home, to the first aid officer who will keep a log of the time and dose. The school nurse must also be made aware of these conditions.

Students who suffer from asthma must carry an inhaler on their person and they must also keep a spare one with the first aid officer.

Students going on field trips will be asked to identify in detail and explain any special medication.

### **Statement on the Misuse of Drugs in School**

The possession and usage of drugs, including tobacco, cigarettes and alcohol in school, or during school organised events, is forbidden. All the drugs covered by this policy are not permitted to be brought to school, sold, passed on or obtained on school premises or during school events. Any breaking of these rules, including on journeys to and from school, will result in punishment, which may include permanent exclusion.

### **Confidentiality**

Students at this school need to feel able to talk in confidence to a member of staff about a drug-related problem without the fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of young people will always be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers will not be able to promise complete confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. Students will always be given this information if at all possible. Information about a student in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. The Heads of Year will be informed and help sought if appropriate and in discussion with the pupil involved. Confidentiality will be maintained beyond certain key people.

### **Parental Involvement**

Parents will be informed of the drug education curriculum and have opportunity to raise concerns. Parents will be contacted if their child is caught breaking the rules on drugs. Opportunities will be made available for parents to get support on guidance concerning drugs and other health-related issues.

### **Police Involvement**

All drug related incidents are referred to PC Brian Smith, our Safer Schools Officer.

However, in most cases any punishment is likely to be a school not a police matter. Acting upon the advice of PC Brian Smith and the judgement of the Headmaster it can be left to the school's discretion.

Serious offences such as pupils supplying drugs etc will be dealt with following the guidelines in the DFE Act for drugs Advice for Schools, September 2012.

The school is aware of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 which controls heroin, Cocaine, LSD, MDMA (Ecstasy), amphetamines and cannabis and other drugs as well. This Act makes it an offence to possess or supply these drugs and it allows individuals to take possession of an illegal drug in order to prevent someone else committing an offence, providing they either hand it to the police or destroy it immediately.

Early help would involve Police education programmes, CAMHS and specific counselling. Support and advice with reference to FRANK, the support helpline is also offered to pupils and parents.

### **Responding to Drug-Related Incidents**

In all situations involving drugs the following principles apply:

- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- A balanced view will be taken with regards to the needs of the student and the needs of the school community
- The Pastoral system will be the first response if at all possible
- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage, wherever possible, and throughout any investigation

- Support agencies will be involved, if appropriate
- Support for students will be maintained and counselling arranged if appropriate
- Responses may include both a disciplinary and counselling approach

### **Disciplinary Action**

The type of punishment cannot be categorically stated as it will depend on the exact nature and degree of the offence. Parents/carers and students will be informed throughout the investigations. Any breaking of the rules regarding legal and illegal drugs will result in a range of disciplinary actions being taken and does include permanent exclusion.

### **Counselling Action**

The student's welfare is paramount and a referral for counselling or support within the school will be actively considered. The school has links with local drug agencies who can offer some counselling and work with pupils as part of the drug education programme. All links with these outside agencies will be through the key staff member. We believe that those students who are misusing illegal drugs and volatile substances should be encouraged to seek help at the earliest possible stage so that they can be helped.

Situations involving drugs may take the form of **emergencies, intoxication, discovery/observation, disclosure, suspicion/rumour**. This policy considers responses to these situations. In all cases the Headteacher will be informed as soon as possible.

**Emergency** situations where a person is unconscious as a result of drug use. Staff with first aid qualifications should be called and the person not left alone. The person will be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called. The parents will be informed and an assessment of the incident started, including finding out what has been taken and evidence gathered. A report of the incident should be written down and given to a senior member of staff. The key staff involved will decide whether disciplinary and/or counselling action will be taken.

**Intoxication** from drug use. The person will be removed to a quiet room and not left alone. A senior member of staff called and the first aider. The person will be helped to calm down and medical assistance sought if necessary. The parents will be informed and asked to come to the school. A report of the incident written down and key staff involved will decide if disciplinary and/or counselling action should be taken.

**Discovery/observation** when a person is discovered using, supplying or holding a substance that is not permitted on school premises. The person should be approached and the substance confiscated. A senior member of staff will be called and the person(s) involved questioned. If there is doubt about the substance obtained then the drug services will be contacted. Parents will be informed and asked to come to the school. The school will decide whether a disciplinary and/or counselling approach will be taken.

**Disclosure** when a student discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs. Teachers will be non-judgmental and caring and will show concern for the pupil's welfare. Students will be told that teachers are not able to promise total confidentiality if further support is to be considered such as referral to a drug service or counselling service. Information about the student will only be given to key people and no one else unless the student gives their consent. Professional confidentiality is maintained at all times. The school can make a referral to outside agencies.

**Suspicion/rumour**. Staff will take action on the basis of rumours of drugs or a belief that a student is using drugs just on their behaviour. Key members of staff will be informed, with the incident being recorded. If there is a suspicion, evidence will be collected and the

student(s) involved may be questioned in that process. Parents will be kept informed of any suspicions that the school has in regards to students and drugs.

**Dealing in drugs.** Anyone discovered or found to have sold or passed on drugs to other students is clearly endangering the health of others in school and are likely to be permanently excluded.

**Smoking.** Any student found smoking in school, on school trips or travelling to and from school will be disciplined and parents will be informed. Any smoking equipment or material such as cigarettes, lighters, matches, cigarette papers etc., will be confiscated by staff. Exclusion will be considered as an appropriate punishment for students who repeatedly break this no-smoking rule.

**Alcohol.** The same procedures and sanctions apply to alcohol possession and consumption as in the case of tobacco.

### **Reporting Procedure**

The reporting procedure ensures that only a limited number of people will be involved in any incident. All incidents are reported to a member of the senior staff and the appropriate Head of Year. The Headteacher is always informed. If an exclusion is considered then the procedure for this is put into action involving the governors. All incidents are written down and kept in the Headteacher's office as confidential items.

### **Monitoring Drug-Related Incidents**

In order to ascertain the extent of drug use in the school community, any incident involving drugs will be monitored by the Headteacher or his Deputy.

### **Training of Teachers**

The school will ensure that relevant teachers receive training to help them provide effective drug education and support for their teaching and understanding of the issues. The school takes advantage of the support, advice, information and training provided by the LEA and Camden and Islington Health Promotion Service.

### **Review of the Policy**

This policy is reviewed annually and in the light of any incident that may occur related to drugs.