



Happy in His
loving care



St Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy Drugs Policy

Date:	September 2024
To be reviewed:	Yearly
Policy Holder	Head teacher

Mission Statement Links

We consider ourselves a big happy family that is welcoming, caring and successful. Our school is a place where we show mutual respect, understanding and tolerance of all people in the world, and where we take responsibility for our actions. It is a place where self-belief and confidence are nurtured but, most of all, a place where we live out our virtues and keep Christ at the centre of everything we do.
We are Happy in His Loving Care.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of this policy are to:

- clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities
- give guidance to staff on the school's drugs education programme
- safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school
- enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly

Terminology

The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to all drugs:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971);
- all legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, vapes and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled);
- all medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

Saint Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy Statement

The presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable.

We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work, and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

Roles and Responsibilities

The headteacher will:

- ensure that staff and parents/carers are informed about this drugs policy
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively
- manage any drug-related incidents
- ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity
- liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme
- monitor the policy, and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy

The governing body will:

- designate a governor with specific responsibility for drugs education

- establish general guidelines on drugs education
- support the headteacher in following these guidelines
- inform parents of the drugs education policy
- liaise with the LA and health organisations, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available
- support the headteacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions

Objectives of drugs education

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- build on knowledge and understanding
- provide accurate information, and clear up misunderstandings
- explore attitudes and values, and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs
- develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem
- ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents/carers, governors and staff

Drugs education

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in science, PSHE, RE and PE.

Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist, and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.

In Key Stage 2, pupils will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug, and that its dangers can be overlooked. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We teach pupils that smoking is a minority habit, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks.

We acknowledge that by the time pupils are in Year 6, some of them may have had some experiences with drugs already, so we must help to equip pupils to handle risky situations, before they actually meet them.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together, and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We give pupils the opportunity to talk in groups or as a class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents or carers.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time.

Drugs in school

Pupils may not bring medication into school without prior arrangement. Parents and carers may visit the school in the lunch break to bring and administer medication themselves, by prior arrangement. This is the preferable approach if medication is needed during the school day. Alternatively, arrangements can be made with the nominated First Aider or other nominated member of staff to administer medication which has been provided by a parent / carer. This must be agreed by the headteacher. Containers must be clearly labelled and will be stored securely in the medical room. Written dosage instructions and consent must be provided. A log will be kept of all medicine administered by staff.

Where children have medical needs, parents and carers must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Parents and carers will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. Records will be kept of all medication received and given. Emergency medication may be stored securely in the classroom (for anaphylaxis, seizures and asthma); other drugs will be stored securely in the medical room.

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Teachers are cautious with solvent-based Tippex, aerosols, glues and board-cleaning fluids.

Legal drugs are legitimately in school only when authorised by the headteacher. Members of staff who smoke must not bring tobacco, matches or lighters into the school building. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site.

Drugs incidents

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco, vapes or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.

The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.

Pupils suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm; chasing can place intolerable strain on the heart, thus precipitating sudden death.

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting disposal; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances.

Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents or carers; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances.

Where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a pupil is concealing an unauthorised drug, staff are permitted to carry out a personal search, including bags and trays etc. The headteacher should be informed before this takes place.

The headteacher will decide whether the police need to be called or whether the school will manage the incident internally.

A full record will be made on CPOMS of any incident relating to drugs.

The headteacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

If a member of staff or visitor is suspected of being under the influence of drugs whilst in school they will be asked to leave and an investigation by the head teacher will be carried out. Appropriate action in line with the school's Disciplinary Policy will be undertaken if appropriate.

Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents/carers of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

To promote this objective, we will:

- inform parents or carers about the school drugs policy
- make the materials used to teach drugs education in our school available for parents to view
- answer any questions that parents and carers may have about the drugs education that their child receives in school
- take seriously any issue which parents and carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents or carers, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent places a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police.