



Drug and Drug Related Incidents Policy

2024 - 2025

<i>Date of publication</i>	<i>September 2024</i>
<i>Reviewed by</i>	<i>J Gascoigne</i>
<i>Date of Review</i>	<i>September 2025</i>

Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework

2. Key roles and responsibilities

3. Definitions

4. Drugs on school premises

Staff training

5. Drug education

6. Smoking

7. Legal drugs and prescribed medicines

8. Solvents

9. Persons found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol

10. Medical emergencies

11. Threatening Behaviour

12. Searching

13. Controlled Substances

14. Discipline

Statement of intent

St John Plessington Catholic College seeks to provide an environment where all members of our College community are safe from harm. We have a zero-tolerance approach to the misuse of drugs and alcohol on our premises and a robust response to any individual or group that violates our drugs policy. As part of our statutory duty to promote students' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse. This policy has been developed in conjunction with DfE guidance to ensure that everyone is aware of the risks posed by the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

We are committed to:

- Upholding the Health and Safety Policy already in place at the school.
- Providing a safe and healthy environment which is conducive to the education of the children in the school.
- Providing a robust policy which outlines our zero tolerance approach to drugs and alcohol misuse.
- Developing and improving the policy by reviewing it after any incident.
- Educating pupils on the dangers of drug and alcohol misuse.

1. Legal framework

Legislation and guidance

1.1 This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [The Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- Articles 3 and 23 of the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- [Children and Families Act 2014](#)
- [Health and Social Care Act 2012](#)
- [Education Act 2011](#)
- [Children Act 1989](#)

1.2. This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the school's:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid Policy

3. Definition of a Drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For the purpose of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to :

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, vapes, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and new psychoactive drugs ('legal highs')
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicine. Some pupils may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day.
- More detailed information can be found here; Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions
- Substances covered in the policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, or while pupils are on school visits.
- Drugs paraphernalia- items such as canisters, cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes

4. Drugs on school premises

4.1. The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip, including those abroad and when the school is deemed to be in loco parentis. It also covers students on work experience and alternative provision placements.

4.2. This policy applies to all school staff, students, parents/carers, governors and other partner agencies, contractors and external services or activity providers. This policy applies to all learners in this school.

This policy will be updated and reviewed on an annual basis and will act as a central reference point for all school staff, or following identification of new/emerging trends in children and young people's behaviour.

4.3 Medicines

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety, this can be found in the [First Aid Policy](#).

Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of a school day. Any adult (or staff, students, parents, carers and visitors) under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents will be asked to collect their children from the school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

Smoking

School premises are a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. Smoking on or within 200m of the school premises will result in suspension. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

Illegal drugs and "psychoactive substances"

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this Drugs Policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this Drugs Policy.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of

this Drugs Policy.

5. Drugs Education

5.1. Aims of Drug Education Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. The following aims of drug education at St John Plessington will be consistent with the values and ethos of the school and laws of society as well as being appropriate to the age, ability and maturity of the students, and relevant to their particular circumstances:

- To increase students' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about - the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs - the rules and laws relating to drugs - the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities - local and national use - the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs - the risk associated with 'county lines' and gang-related drugs issues
- To develop students' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including - promoting positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles - assessing, avoiding and managing risk - communicating effectively - resisting pressures - finding information, help and advice - devising problem-solving and coping strategies - developing and maintaining self-awareness and self-esteem in order to motivate them to value their welfare and conscientious care of themselves
- To enable students to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences
- To ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up to date information as sources of help. This includes local and national helplines (including Talk To FRANK, RESPONSE for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and vaping), local youth and community services and drug services. These sources are used in addition to the school's own drug and alcohol education

5.2 Drugs Education Curriculum Delivery

Drug education is mandatory in accordance with the National Curriculum for Science. Students need to feel confident and relaxed about discussing issues related to illegal substances. For this to happen teachers / school personnel need to be confident and to use a range of strategies to help young people to discuss their ideas, thoughts and feelings openly.

At St John Plessington Catholic College the Drug Education Programme is delivered through Personal Development curriculum on a bi- weekly basis. Lessons will be appropriate to the age a phase of the students and will be adapted to suit the needs of learners.

Advice and guidance is also provided by our Safer Schools Police Officer and Wirral Health Services in Schools. Drugs and alcohol will feature regularly as part of the pastoral education in the form of

classes and assemblies. Where appropriate, visitors and external speakers will join us to lead classes on substance misuse.

5 Responding to and the Management of Drug Related Incidents in School 5.1 School stance on Drugs School will not tolerate the use or possession of unauthorised legal or illegal controlled substances by students, staff or other members of the school community including parents, in school time, on school premises or off-site during school organised activities such as trips and work experience. As a school we cannot knowingly allow on our premises or to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug (e.g. the preparation of, or smoking of cannabis). A central record of evidence related to any pupils suspected of drugs misuse will be held on school site. This also extends to new psychoactive substances (NPS), alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, amyl nitrates, and substances that cause states of intoxication. This is not an exhaustive list and it will be reviewed in accordance with circumstances as they develop. The Senior Leaders with responsibility for all drug related incidents are the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher (DSL). All drug related incidents will be reported to Mr P McLoughlin who will be responsible for coordinating the most appropriate response. Drug related incidents will be dealt with fairly and with due regard for the facts as they present themselves, as well as the health, pastoral, educational and welfare needs of any person involved and the school community. In the first instance the possibility of a medical emergency will be considered. 5.2 Establishing the Type and Nature of a Drug Incident School will conduct a careful investigation to judge the nature and seriousness of each individual incident. School will not automatically assume drug related incidents are more serious than any other. The risk to pupils and to others should be assessed in terms of health and safety rather than criminality. Example of a drug related incidents could involve the following situations: Suspicion A pupil/ carer or member of staff is thought to be under the influence of a drug, or the supply of a substance. 8 Drugs Policy 2021 - 22 Observation A pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions, play and inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age. Disclosure A pupil discloses that they or their family member / friend are misusing drugs Discovery A teacher may find a substance on school premises or from pupil during a search. This also includes discoveries from pupils via social media sites; for example Snapchat, Facebook Instagram etc.