



# St Bede's Catholic High School

## Drug Education Policy

### Mission Statement and Ethos

*"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took, and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."*  
Matthew 13:31-3

We aim to foster an environment where each and every person is valued and respected. It is our responsibility to provide a safe and purposeful environment where individuals are encouraged to develop self-regard and self-respect, such that substance abuse would not be considered.

We aim to support and educate our pupils and those associated with St. Bede's so that they are able to make informed choices about the consequences of substance use and abuse. Close links between school, home and parish are already part of our ethos. This partnership will be maintained in the issues of drugs education and incidents.

Drugs education in St. Bede's aims to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practising decision making skills. The programme we follow will be based on national and local guidelines for good practice and will be appropriate to the age and experience of our pupils.

### Inclusive Definition of Drugs

We define a drug as a substance, which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

### Aims of the Policy

We hope to reduce the likelihood of drug abuse by:

- Implementing a Drugs Education Policy within the school.
- Using the curriculum to discourage drug use among the pupils at St. Bede's.
- Provide CPD time for staff and governors, thereby raising awareness in school of the issues associated with drug use and enabling drugs related issues that may be raised in any subject lesson to be addressed.
- Encouraging parental involvement by providing information for parents in the form of a leaflet and at a dedicated parent evening.

- Being committed to the health and safety of all pupils, staff and visitors.
- Encouraging pupils, parents and staff to take a collective responsibility for preventing drug abuse.
- Involvement of pupils through the school council, making pupils aware that they share the responsibility for keeping our school safe.
- Co-operating and working with outside agencies to assist in the education and support of individuals within the school.
- Fostering an atmosphere of trust in which individuals feel able to approach a member of staff and be confident of a sensitive response, which preserves their confidentiality within the bounds of the policy.

## **Procedure for Managing Drug Incidents**

The legal definition of premises of the school includes:

- school buildings
- grounds, yards and playing fields
- journey between home and school
- school residential visits
- school activities when supervised or not by teaching staff

The Drugs Policy at St. Bede's covers all the above places.

### Medicines:

In line with the existing policy on The Control and Distribution of Medicines, any medicines brought into school should be accompanied by a note from the pupil's parents. The medicines should be kept in the main office and administered according to the school's policy.

### Cigarettes:

St. Bede's is a 'No Smoking School'. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. Any pupil found smoking on the school premises will be reported to the Year Leader, when appropriate action will be taken. Any smoking materials will be confiscated and parents will be informed. Persistent offenders could face exclusion for a fixed period.

### Alcohol:

When alcohol is to be used at school events, it will be stored in a location inaccessible to pupils and will be the responsibility of/supervised by a designated member of staff. A pupil found in possession of alcohol or consuming alcohol will be punished by being placed in detention, excluded for a fixed period, and, if the pupil re-offends, may be excluded permanently.

Parents and visitors whose behaviour is considered to be putting the safety of the pupils at risk will be asked to leave the premises.

## Drug Abuse – First Aid

If it is suspected that a pupil is suffering from drug or alcohol abuse in school, First Aid should be sought and the Year Leader informed immediately, when appropriate action will be taken.

In a medical emergency **always**:

- assess the situation
- if a medical emergency, send for medical help and an ambulance

### **Before Assistance Arrives:**

If the person is conscious

- ask the person what has happened and to identify any drug used
- collect any drug sample and any vomit for medical analysis
- do not induce vomiting
- keep the person under observation, warm and quiet

If the person is unconscious

- ensure the person can breathe and place in the recovery position
- do not move the person if a fall is likely to have led to spinal injuries which may not be obvious
- do not give anything by mouth
- do not attempt to make the person sit or stand
- do not leave the person unattended or in the charge of another pupil

### **When Medical Help Arrives:**

- pass on any information available including vomit and any drug samples

Record the incident as soon as you have dealt with the emergency. The report will be held in school by the safeguarding officer.

## **Drugs in School**

If a pupil admits to using, possessing or supplying drugs on the school premises, or where there is proof that this has taken place, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity, according to the Headteacher's discretion. There is no statutory duty to inform the Police of a pupil possessing or supplying drugs. However, the Headteacher will contact the Police on each occasion when a pupil is found to possess or to supply drugs.

Where it is suspected that a pupil is concealing illegal drugs about his or her person, he or she must be escorted by a member of staff to the Safeguarding officer or Year Leader who will seek his voluntary production of the substance in the presence of a member of staff acting as a witness. In the event of a refusal, the Headteacher may sanction sending f or the pupil's parents and the Police, who have the power to search a person who is suspected of concealing illegal substances. Every effort should be made to keep the pupil under constant supervision and in the presence of a witness.

Whenever a suspected illegal drug is found on a pupil or on the school premises, it must be handed over immediately to the Safeguarding officer or Headteacher who will keep it secure and hand it over to the Police as soon as possible. No substance should be tested or tasted before handing it over to the Police.

In line with the school policy on Discipline, the Headteacher will consider each drug related incident individually. However, the following guidelines will be followed:

- was this the first occasion that the pupil has been involved in possessing or supplying drugs?
- was the pupil in possession of drugs but not used or supplied them to other pupils?
- was the pupil in possession of drugs and also used the drugs on the school premises, particularly in the presence of other pupils?
- was the pupil in possession of and also supplying drugs to other pupils?

The Headteacher will exclude any pupil from school who is found in possession of, has used, and/or supplied drugs to other pupils.

The Headteacher will decide whether or not a pupil should be excluded permanently on the first occasion the pupil is involved with drugs.

However, if the pupil were to be involved a second time, the Headteacher would, in most circumstances, exclude the pupil permanently.