

St John Fisher Catholic High School



Substance Misuse Policy

Designated Teacher: Deputy Headteacher

Adopted: Date: Jan 16

Review Period: Three Years

Review Date: Date: Jan 19

“Educating for Life”

Our Values



Rationale:

- To ensure students are aware of their responsibilities in relation to drug during school time.
- To allow the school to react appropriately and consistently to drug related incidents, so that the behaviour of the few does not jeopardise the health or learning environment of the rest of our students.
- To provide a programme of Personal Development which promotes positive attitudes to health and allows young people to develop social and life skills to ensure that they are aware of the dangers of drug use.
- All colleagues are responsible for the welfare of our students. If a student contravenes this policy the relevant Year Leader/Manager must be involved.
- The welfare of our young people is paramount.
- All legal requirements should be fulfilled.
- The good image of the school is upheld.

Tobacco, Alcohol and Illegal Drug Use

Students must not be in possession of, or use, or attempt to sell or procure tobacco, alcohol or other drugs whilst on the school premises and from the point they leave home to come to school to the point they arrive home after the school day. Moreover, students must not attend school under the influence of alcohol, or any other substance. The school will not tolerate any student under the



influence of or the possession, use or supply of drugs. The student will be escorted to Reception and parents/carers contacted immediately. Serious consequences will result and could involve exclusion and police involvement.

Personal Development Lessons

All students in Years 7 – 11 participate in Personal Development lessons which include a number of Personal, Social and Health Education units. At different stages of their education they are provided with appropriate information and guidance regarding drugs (including alcohol and smoking). From these lessons, students are encouraged to be able to make positive choices and decisions about their lives which could affect their health and well-being. They will become aware of the risks and consequences of addiction, including legal and social implications and the problems and influences of the behaviour of others within their peer group. They will learn facts about commonly misused substances and the health and social consequences that may result from their use. They will also be informed of school procedures to be followed if they become aware of a drugs related incident.

School Visits and Residentials

At the pre-trip parents/carers' meeting, the rules for tobacco, alcohol or other drugs must be made explicit. Abuse of privileges could result in the student being sent home at the parents/carers' expense. They would be contacted immediately and an appropriate plan implemented. The student could be banned from future visits. All visits are non-smoking.

The use of illegal substances is governed by the specific country unless the UK law is more Staff should initially refer to the OEAP (Outdoor Education Advisory Panel) National Guidance. Below is the HGS summary, based on recommendations.

Medicines

Notification of the need for medication and arrangements for security and administration should be in accordance with the school's medicines policy.

Alcohol (students)

The use of alcohol by students is not allowed on all School Visits and Residentials.

Alcohol (staff)

Single day visits will be alcohol free.

It is strongly recommended that alcohol use is not permitted for any outdoor activity that requires reliance on others as well as self for safety.

The use of alcohol by adults is to be discouraged as each has a continuous responsibility for the welfare of the group and should always be in a position to respond to any emergency at any time. Being alcohol free is the only certain way of ensuring that one's actions cannot later be criticised as being influenced by drink should any enquiry follow.

Young people must always be supervised by alcohol-free staff, either directly or remotely.



Should staff wish to drink, a rota should be established so that staff have a clear understanding of when they are on and off duty.

These guidelines apply to any event which is organised through school and which is attended by staff. This includes events organised by the students, and occasions when an event officially finishes but staff and students continue to socialise.

Large-scale purchase of duty-free alcohol by staff should be discouraged.

Alcohol misuse at the wrong time, or use to excess will be considered a disciplinary matter.

Tobacco (students and staff)

Non-smoking should be the norm on school visits. Adults (staff) should not smoke in face to face situations with children and young people.

The purchase of tobacco products as gifts should be disallowed and parents/carers advised accordingly.

Any tobacco products which are confiscated for the safety of individuals or a group must be returned to their parents/carers at the end of a visit or trip unless the parent/carer has consented to their disposal by other means.

Students must be advised against taking aerosols, cigarette lighters and solvent based products with them on visits or trips. Staff should keep control of any items that students may have.

Students and parents/carers should be advised that cigarette lighters and refills are not acceptable presents for a child to buy as a gift.

Drugs including cannabis

Although other countries may have varying interpretations of the law, for example permitting small amounts of cannabis for personal use, school groups should be guided and abide by UK law (unless the law of the country is more stringent). Staff should check the Foreign Office website before departure.

People should not knowingly allow premises they own, manage or have responsibility for, to be used by any person for the supply of a controlled drug or the administration or use of any controlled drug which is unlawfully in that person's possession. It may be held that teachers or other adults are responsible for premises wholly or substantially used by their students, even where ownership of the property lies elsewhere.

Students, parents/carers and all members of any party making a visit to any location should be informed that the possession, use or supply (which includes sharing) of any controlled substance is not acceptable and that any contravention of this may result in disciplinary and/or legal action including an individual or individuals being sent home at their own expense.

