

Notre Dame Catholic College

180 Great Homer St,
Liverpool L5 5AF



Drug and Alcohol Education Policy

Policy Owner	Approved by	Approval date	Review frequency	Issue No.	Page 1 of 5
E Brennan	LOS Committee	23.2.2023	Annual	6	

Opening Hearts, Minds and Doors

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Why do we have this Policy?

In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level we, the Governors and staff of Notre Dame Catholic College, believe the issue of drug and alcohol misuse must be addressed in order to protect pupils from any risks whilst in our care, for the duration of their studies. Pupils and parents must be made aware that illegal and other unauthorised drugs are not acceptable on the school premises or whilst pupils are participating in any school related activity. We have an effective drug and alcohol education programme within the personal, health, social and citizenship education (PSHCE) curriculum and clear rules on drug and alcohol misuse, with specific rules and procedures for the storage and distribution of medicines.

Drugs definition:

‘a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave’

UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

This definition includes all legal and illegal substances including alcohol, tobacco and medicines, solvents and legal highs.

Purposes

- ❖ To make Notre Dame Catholic College a safe place in which to learn and mature;
- ❖ To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices and promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles;
- ❖ To encourage pupils to have due regard for moral considerations and the value of life;
- ❖ To ensure that all pupils, staff and parents are absolutely clear about the school rules and sanctions regarding drug and alcohol misuse, including medicines;
- ❖ To ensure that the curriculum addresses the issues of drug and alcohol misuse with a co-ordinated and consistent approach;
- ❖ To enable pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, challenging attitudes and by developing skills of assertiveness;
- ❖ To provide accurate information about legal and illegal drugs and alcohol;
- ❖ To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug or alcohol use and misuse;
- ❖ To widen understanding about health and social issues with regard to drug or alcohol misuse, e.g. crime, HIV/AIDS and pregnancy;
- ❖ To enable all pupils to acquire the skills and confidence to deal effectively with difficult situations, including drug and alcohol related issues;
- ❖ To ensure that the appropriate agencies are employed where necessary.

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How does the School Respond?

- ❖ All parents will be informed about the school's drug and alcohol education programme and policy on drug and alcohol misuse via the PSHCE curriculum;
- ❖ All pupils will receive regular guidance on drugs and alcohol as part of the citizenship curriculum.

Addiction

- (a) In accordance with part 1 of the Health Act 2006, Notre Dame Catholic College is a smoke free environment. This includes all buildings, playgrounds, fields and other areas.
 - (b) Pupils including sixth form students over the age of 18 are not permitted to bring smoking or nicotine products onto the premises. This includes, but is not limited to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, lighters, matches and pipes.
 - (c) In the interest of health and hygiene, smoking or vaping will not be permitted at or around the school gates.
 - (d) Under part 2, section 2 of the Education Act 2011, teachers are authorised by the Headteacher to search for any prohibited item, without the consent of the pupil if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item.
 - (e) Searches will be conducted by a same sex member of staff with another same sex member of staff as a witness, unless there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not done immediately and where it is not practicable to summon another member of staff.
 - (f) A staff member carrying out the search can confiscate anything they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item.
- ❖ The main drug and alcohol education programme will be covered in PSHCE lessons. Additional training, support and guidance is also available from the school nurse by request. Drug and alcohol education will also take place within other areas of the curriculum where it is relevant to the programme of study;
 - ❖ All teaching staff are encouraged to respond at any time to the needs of pupils in terms of education and about the whole programme;
 - ❖ Members of staff must never give guarantees of confidentiality regarding drug or alcohol misuse issues but will be expected to handle them with sensitivity;
 - ❖ appropriate outside speakers will be brought in to enhance the school's drug and alcohol education programme, e.g. the Drugs Officer from the local Police, 'We are with You' etc;
 - ❖ all staff will be vigilant in terms of checking the Notre Dame Catholic School site for signs of drug or alcohol misuse at all times and will report anything suspicious to the safeguarding team, the 'Drugs and Alcohol Support Teacher' who will take the appropriate action;

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- ❖ If drug or alcohol misuse is suspected the Headteacher, after discussion with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, will take appropriate action whilst an investigation is carried out;
- ❖ Visitors to the school found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be escorted from the premises.
- ❖ The Headteacher will decide if there are legitimate grounds for not informing parents immediately of a drug or alcohol related incident e.g. if it is clear that the parents might seriously overreact and possibly cause physical harm to the young person or if the parents are believed to be directly involved in the situation causing concern, and appropriate action will be taken;
- ❖ The Headteacher, after discussion with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, will decide if the Police need to be informed and any further action taken;
- ❖ In consultation with the Chair of the Governing Body, appropriate decisions will be taken about the future of any pupil involved in drug or alcohol misuse;
- ❖ Appropriate sources of help will be sought, after consultation with parents and the Designated Safeguarding Lead, for any pupil involved in drug or alcohol misuse;
- ❖ The school recognises the need for a progressive response to a drug or alcohol related incident and will handle each case on an individual basis, recognising that the future of the pupil(s) involved could be affected by any decision and subsequent action taken;
- ❖ All policies, rules and disciplinary procedures are in effect whilst the pupil is in school uniform or is involved in educational trips or school related events at any time of the day. (see Staff Handbook "Statement on Drugs and Alcohol");
- ❖ Any parents with concerns over the drug education programme at Notre Dame Catholic College are welcome to make an appointment with Mrs Brennan, the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead, to discuss them;
- ❖ In any case of drug or alcohol misuse, contact with the media will be through the Headteacher.

Monitoring and Evaluation

All staff at Notre Dame Catholic College will work together to ensure that the school remains as drug and alcohol free as possible in order to make it a safer environment for all pupils and staff.

All staff will follow these guidelines which will be reviewed annually as part of the Policy Review Activity of the Governing Body.

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