

# St Bede's Catholic Voluntary Academy



## Drugs Policy

*"We commit ourselves to love, respect and serve one another as disciples of Jesus Christ"*

Date of approval	January 2024
Date of review	January 2026

The policy is informed by [DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies 2012](#)

St Bede's Catholic Academy actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the school takes a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our behaviour, drugs or anti-bullying policies.

This is a school where human rights are respected; as such the responsibility to maintain high standards of behaviour lies with all members of St Bede's Catholic Academy community. The school acknowledges its legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to all protected groups including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will always take their circumstances into account. It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist.

### **Education and Prevention**

We believe that accurate knowledge for young people is key, so we ensure that age-appropriate education and support is provided through Social Wellbeing and science lessons as well as during tutor time and assembly.

Students say that they find input from external education agencies particularly useful. In response we aim to ensure that this is provided by approved agencies at regular intervals throughout their time at St Bede's Catholic Academy. We also recognise the importance of training of staff and will make sure this is regular, up to date and context specific.

### **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
- Drugs paraphernalia- items such as canisters, cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes

### **Drugs on school premises**

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, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit and when the school is deemed to be in loco parentis.

The split site nature of St Bede's Catholic Academy means that our policy also applies to the underpass areas between our two sites, along with the link pathway up to our Sports Hall and carpark and on the public footpath that runs through South Site. This policy applies to all school staff, students, parents/carers, governors and other partner agencies working with the school.

## **Medicines**

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. We follow procedures recommended by North Lincolnshire Health & Safety guidelines. Please refer to our Medical Conditions 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 a Fixed Term 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.

## **Responses to drug related incidents**

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents, staff or other students using drugs
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamourising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider school community.

Exclusion from school is not an automatic response to a drug incident but permanent exclusion is considered in serious cases where:

- There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour Policies and
- Allowing a student to remain in St Bede's Catholic Academy would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the school

A member of the SLT will (normally) be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents. They will work with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and will offer sources of support and liaise with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

### **Drug Misuse Outside the School Premises**

In line with [Behaviour in schools Advice for headteachers and school staff \(September 2022\)](#) the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

### **Individuals in Possession of Drugs**

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents and Carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the local authority, Young Offenders Service, Aquarius, Police, GP, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

### **Confidentiality**

St Bede's Catholic Academy will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate (please refer to our Child Protection Policy and Privacy Statement for more information on this).

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. In particular if a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to try to ensure the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures staff will follow the advice given in the Child Protection Policy, and at the annual safeguarding training.

## **Support for students**

At our school the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'. We believe that early intervention, where possible, is significant. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in school (Counsellor, School Nurse, Head of Year Learning Tutor or a member of the school safeguarding team)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support, e.g. Early Help team, DELTA
- Working with the Police

## **Right to Search**

In line [with Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for schools 2022](#) the staff at St Bede's Catholic Academy reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous.

Searches will be carried out by members of the Senior Leadership Team of the same sex and Parents and Carers will always be informed when this has happened.

St Bede's Catholic Academy works closely with its Police Liaison Officers. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in intimate searches and the confiscation of items,

Similarly, the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of legal action, if any, should be taken.

Links to other policies

- Behaviour for Learning
- Safeguarding

## Appendix

### Useful Organisations

**ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 3817 9410

Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk)

Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Alcohol Change uk** works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems

Tel: 020 3907 8480

Email: [contact@alcoholchange.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholchange.org.uk)

Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)

**ASH (Action on Smoking and Health)** A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 020 7404 0242

Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk)

Website: [Action on Smoking and Health \(ASH\)](http://Action on Smoking and Health (ASH))

**Children's Legal Centre** operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 714 650 (general queries only)

Email: [info@coramclc.org.uk](mailto:info@coramclc.org.uk)

Website: <https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com>

**Drinkaware** - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7766 9900

Website: <https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/>

**Drink line** - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

**Drug wise** is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service.

Website: <https://www.drugwise.org.uk>

**FRANK** is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0300 123 6600

Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com)

Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

**Family Lives** - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0808 800 2222 Website: [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

**Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse)** A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Text: 07496 959930 Information line: 01785 810762.

Email: [info@re-solv.org](mailto:info@re-solv.org)

Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

**Smokefree** - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044;

Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

**Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

**Youth Offending Teams** – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>