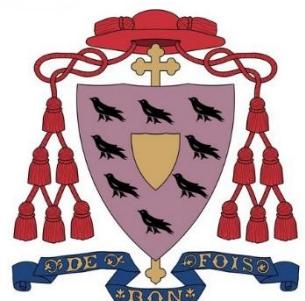




St Aidan's Catholic Academy

Drugs & Alcohol Policy

January 2026





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Policy Statement

This policy document is aimed at all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and agencies working with the Academy, and has been drawn up in consultation with all relevant parties.

The Academy will not tolerate the misuse of drugs within its grounds and by pupils either representing the school out of school hours or on any school organised trips or visits.

This applies also to any adult or persons who may come onto the Academy site and may be intoxicated and/or in possession of illegal drugs. Our Academy is a no-smoking area and we request that all adults refrain from smoking on or around the premises. This has been extended to include use of the premises by groups out of normal school hours.

At St Aidan's Academy we recognise that some of our pupils and parents need a variety of medicines and appropriate arrangements are made to enable the correct distribution of these. *Please refer to the Pupils with Medical needs Policy.*

St Aidan's Academy Drug Policy is part of our overall approach to health and well-being. Through our PDE, Science curriculum and through our school ethos, we aim to ensure that pupils recognise the importance of what they eat and drink and the effect that this can have (*Information can be found in the Curriculum area on the Academy Website*). Self-respect and a healthy lifestyle are all part of an approach which will enable our pupils to make the right choices for themselves and their families now and in the future.

It is important to note that the Academy sees inappropriate drug use by pupils as something to be challenged and changes in behaviour sought through support and counselling wherever possible. Any pupil found to have been distributing and/or using illegal drugs, whether or not in return for payment, will be excluded from school and the police contacted.

Definition of "Drugs" for the benefit of this policy

A drug is any substance that affects the way in which the body functions, physically, emotionally, or mentally. It includes:

1. All illegal drugs i.e. those drugs controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971



2. All legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, which have a particular significance in relation to pupils, volatile substances (those giving off gas or vapour which can be inhaled) GHB (dangerous sedative and aesthetic effects), e-cigarettes, MCAT (Mephedrone (sometimes called 'meow meow') is a powerful stimulant) Ketamine and alkyl nitrites (poppers)
3. All over the counter and prescribed drugs

Aims of the Policy

St Aidan's Catholic Academy believes that as part of the care and welfare of its pupils it has a duty to:

1. Increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and to clarify their misconceptions about drugs.
2. Develop pupils' personal and social skills to enable them to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy.
3. Enable pupils to explore their own and other people's attitude towards drugs, drug use and drug users.
4. Ensure the safety of staff and pupils when on school site or when on any school trip or visit, residential or otherwise.
5. Develop pupils' understanding of rules and laws
6. Raise pupils' self-esteem and self-awareness
7. Explore risks and consequences of their own and others' actions relating to drugs
8. To enhance young people's decision-making skills more generally, using drug education as a vehicle.
9. To minimise the number of young people who ever engage in drug misuse.
10. To delay the age of onset of first use for those who do experiment at any time.
11. To minimise the proportion of users who adopt particularly dangerous forms of misuse.
12. To persuade any who are experimenting with or misusing drugs to stop, engaging with relevant agencies.
13. To enable any pupils who are misusing drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to seek help.
- 14. Parents/carers should be aware that any concerns or information gathered that their son is using, supplying or bringing any form of illegal substance or any form of drugs' paraphernalia onto the school premises/site, will be shared with the police in the interest of protecting not only the pupil involved, but every member of the Academy community.**



15. In working closely with the Local Authority and the Police, the school will continue to allow the police drugs dogs onto the school site for random or targeted searches.

Context

Drug education is provided through PDE and Citizenship, visits from outside agencies, the school nurse, Science, Drama, Assembly and other related curriculum areas as part of a pupil's preparation for adult life.

1. It should aim to involve parents and encourage them to take an interest.
2. It should be delivered in the context of the Academy as part of the community.
3. It should take account of age, sex, ethnic/cultural/social background of the pupils at whom it is targeted.
4. It should provide factual and accurate information backed up with consistent advice.
5. It should aim to teach the pupils the necessary personal and social skills described in the Aims Section above.

Management of Drugs Related Incidents on Academy Premises

The Academy believes that as part of the care and welfare of its pupils it has a duty to:

1. Try to maintain a health promoting drug-free environment.
2. Try to minimise the effects of drugs and alcohol on pupils' learning.
3. Act on suspected drug or alcohol use.
4. Provide a co-ordinated and consistent response to any drug or alcohol related incidents.
5. Use suitable sanctions where appropriate.
6. Provide support to any pupil with problems.

Drug Related Incidents may involve

1. Possession of known/unknown substance(s).
2. Suspected/evidence of supplying substance(s).
3. Use of drugs at school.
4. Use of a drug outside of school which is affecting learning/progress.
5. Discovery of drugs in a place on the school premises.
6. Retrieval of drugs from such a place.
7. Suspicion of drug abuse (where information may have come from other pupils, parents, the police or other sources)
8. Self-referral by pupil.



Each case should be treated in accordance with the principles above and the procedures below. A drug incident record should be recorded on SIMs.

Drugs on Academy Premises

St Aidan's Academy makes it clear that drug use on the school premises is not acceptable, except in the case of prescribed medication (in line with the *Pupils with Medical needs Policy and Staff Code of Conduct*).

In such cases, parents MUST ensure that they have met with Head of House and completed the IHCP (Individual Health Care Plan).

Incidents would include:

1. Smoking on or around the Academy premises either during the school day or during evening/weekend events.
2. Alcohol on the Academy site during the school day.
3. Alcohol consumed by adults on the premises at a time other than may be authorised by the Governors and/or Headteacher in conjunction with an approved and/or appropriately licensed event.
4. Adults or pupils on the Academy premises who are evidently under the influence of alcohol or substances which impair their judgement.
5. Adults or pupils who are in known possession of alcohol or illegal substances around the Academy premises.

Where school staff suspect any one of the incidents may have occurred they should inform the Leadership Team who will make a judgement as to whether they should:

1. Approach the individual.
2. Call the police.
3. Make arrangements to isolate the individual to ensure the safety of all other pupils on the Academy site.
4. Illegal drugs – These should be confiscated by a member of the Leadership Team in the presence of another adult. The drugs should be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date and time they were found or confiscated. The police should then be notified. The drugs should be kept in the safe in the main office until such time they can be collected.

NB – The person seizing the substances should wear rubber gloves and should wash their hands thoroughly after the incident.



Alcohol and Tobacco use or Possession by Pupils

1. Items will be confiscated under the school confiscation policy (*Please refer to the Achievement Behaviour and Attendance Policy*). Parents will be informed and the items will be disposed of or destroyed.
2. All drug related incidents should be referred immediately to the Headteacher or Leadership Team. The following actions may result:
 - Exclusion of the pupil.
 - Confiscation where possible of the substance following the search and seizure procedure set out by the Local Authority and outlined in the Attendance, Achievement and Behaviour Policy.
 - Where there are safeguarding concerns, these should be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately.
 - A meeting with the pupil, parents, pastoral staff and any relevant agencies must occur.

The meeting should provide an opportunity to:

1. Exchange information and opinion on the nature of the pupil's involvement with drugs.
2. To hear the pupil's view.
3. To agree a detailed plan covering support from the school and outside agencies as well as monitoring review. Where appropriate, a PSP (pupil support plan) may be established following any drug related incident in school.

Drugs on School Visits and Trips

Where drugs or drug related paraphernalia are discovered on a school trip, procedures will generally follow those for drugs found on Academy premises.

The Academy reserve the right to require a parent/carer to attend and collect the pupil immediately or as soon after as practicably possible.

In the event of:

1. Suspicion of a pupil under the influence of drugs/alcohol/solvents
2. Pupil in possession of drugs/alcohol/solvents
3. Pupil discloses that they are misusing drugs/alcohol/solvents



4. Pupil discloses that parents or friends are misusing or selling drugs/alcohol/solvents
5. School becomes aware of the availability of drugs/alcohol/solvents in the school vicinity
6. Pupil or parent asks for advice on illegal drug misuse

Teachers/visit leaders should contact the Headteacher immediately who will decide on appropriate action in line with the *Achievement Behaviour and Attendance Policy*.

All disclosures and other incidents should be fully documented and passed to the relevant Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible. Staff must ensure that on no account should they promise confidentiality.

Emergency Procedures – Advice to Staff

In the event of a pupil appearing to suffer from drugs/alcohol/solvent misuse, then staff should follow these procedures:

1. Do not panic – YOU CAN HELP.
2. If they are semi-conscious or in a coma, make sure the pupil is lying in the recovery position on their side. An ambulance must be called immediately.
3. If they are hyperactive, try to find a calm, dark area where they can sit with someone to reassure them.
4. Inform reception or pupil support who will summon a First Aider.
5. Keep any containers or pills that are at the scene to show the Doctor or Paramedic. Ask friends, if present, if they know what and how much the pupil may have taken.
6. Stay with the pupil until assistance arrives.

Confidentiality and Advice

Pupils should be made aware that information. However, they should be offered sensitive and appropriate support.

Other Related Documents which should be referred to:

1. Behaviour for Learning Policy
2. Child Protection Policy
3. Anti-bullying Policy
4. Drugs – Guidance for Schools (DCSF)
5. Local Authority Guidelines



6. PDE/Science SOL (sequences of learning)
7. Healthy Schools information

1. Useful Contacts:

1. www.drugscope.org.uk
2. www.drugeducation.org.uk
3. www.nc.uk.net
4. www.drugs.gov.uk
5. www.wrecked.co.uk
6. www.talktofrank.com

Relevant Legislation

1. Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
2. Children and Young Person (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991
3. Supporting pupils with Medical Needs (gov.co.uk 2014)
4. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023

Policy Review

This policy document will be reviewed in January 2027.

Signed by:

Dr C Emmerson

Chair of Governors
January 2026