



# St. Gregory's Catholic High School

## Alcohol and Drugs Aware Policy

### **Monitoring**

The implementation of the policy will be monitored by the Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral.

### **Evaluation**

The policy was reviewed by the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) and SLT on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 prior to the submission of the policy to Governors' Community Committee for scrutiny and recommendation to the Full Governing Board for approval.

### **Policy Review Dates:**

**Date last approved by Full Governing Board:** 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018

**Date submitted to Governors' Committee:** 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Date submitted to Full Governing Board:** 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Review Frequency:** Every 3 years

**Start date for policy review:** September 2024

## Warrington Alcohol & Drugs Aware School Policy

<p><b>Date of School Approval</b></p>	<p>8<sup>th</sup> December 2021</p>
<p><b>Background and purpose of this policy</b></p>	<p>The Governors of the <b>St. Gregory's Catholic High School</b> are committed to ensuring that the School is healthy, free from the misuse of alcohol, drugs, tobacco and other substances.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the school to play a positive role in preventing the harm drugs and alcohol can have both to students and in the local community and to provide a clear statement to all students and their families about the rules and protocols related to the possession or use of alcohol and drugs on the school grounds.</p> <p>This policy is also a statement from the school to be alcohol and drug free. This means that all school functions will not involve alcohol or drugs; this includes using alcohol as prizes in raffles etc.</p> <p>This policy follows the guidance given in the document 'Drug Advice for Schools' produced by Department of Education (DfE), the Association for Chief Police Officers (ACPO), 2010 (reviewed in 2013) and the Psychoactive Substances Act (2016).</p>
<p><b>Policy Consultation</b></p>	<p>The head teachers of Warrington were consulted throughout the development process of this policy.</p> <p>The policy was also agreed through the Warrington Drug &amp; Alcohol Action Team Partnership which includes the local police and substance misuse services.</p>
<p><b>Location &amp; Dissemination</b></p>	<p>This policy will be prominently displayed in the school office or reception.</p> <p>The policy will also be readily available for parents and students to read on the school's website and intranet.</p> <p>Both students and parents will be made aware of the policy when joining the school.</p>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p>	<p>This policy refers to the use and supply of alcohol, illegal drugs, volatile substances (e.g. aerosols, solvents, glue or petrol) and new psychoactive substances NPS – formerly known as legal highs, the misuse of prescription drugs and Image and Performance Enhancing Drugs (IPEDs).</p>

	<p>The policy covers students, school staff, parents and other agencies visiting the school.</p> <p>A <b>drug</b> is a psychoactive substance that alters the consciousness, mood and thoughts of those who use them. People often take to change the way they feel, think or behave'. (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)</p> <p><b>NPS</b> - Psychoactive substances are “drugs that are designed to replicate the effects of other illegal substances.” People may still refer to these drugs as ‘legal highs’, but all psychoactive substances are now either under the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 or subject to the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (PS Act).</p>
<b>Authorised members of staff</b>	<p>This policy refers to authorised staff. In this school it refers to:</p> <p><b>Mr McGlinchey (Head Teacher)</b></p> <p><b>Mrs McKenna (Deputy Head Teacher)</b></p> <p><b>Mr. McLeod (Assistant Head Teacher)</b></p>
<b>Medicines policy</b>	<p>The Medical Policy can be found on the school website</p>
<b>Up to date and relevant drug &amp; alcohol education</b>	<p>The use of drugs and alcohol including the health and legal aspects are covered in the schools PSHE programme following guidance issues through the Department for Education. It is comprehensive and age-appropriate. Effective PSHE should take a holistic approach to building resilience and life skills so pupils are able to face and avoid the risks posed by NPS and other substances.</p> <p>The school will also be offering 'Risky Behaviour' workshops. These workshops will include sessions relating to alcohol and drug use, exploring the pressure to use, the effects and emotional impact they can have. There will also be information about legalities and negative consequences.</p> <p>The planning and delivery of the workshops will be a partnership process between the youth service, local sexual health services, drug &amp; alcohol services, school health nurse and the relevant school staff.</p> <p>The teaching staff at each school will have the opportunity to receive appropriate drug and alcohol awareness training via the free DAAT</p>

	<p>training programme. If there is a particular problem it will be arranged for a youth worker to deliver a "briefing session" to a staff group.</p>
<b>Confidentiality</b>	<p>If a student discloses alcohol or drug use in the classroom setting the teachers will respond to the information in accordance with the school's confidentiality policy.</p> <p>Students will be informed of the confidentiality rules before any drug and alcohol education session.</p> <p>If alcohol or drugs use is disclosed as part of a one to one session with either a school health nurse or a youth worker they will follow their professional confidentiality guidelines.</p>
<b>What is classed as an alcohol or drug related incident</b>	<p>A drug incident refers to the following circumstances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspicion - if a teacher or other member of school staff has reasonable grounds for suspecting a student has involvement with alcohol or drug use.</li> <li>• Observation - if a teacher or other member of staff observes intoxication, or witnesses the use of, or the supply of alcohol or drugs.</li> <li>• Discovery - if unauthorised drugs or drug paraphernalia are found in a student's possession or on school grounds.</li> <li>• There will be intermittent use of police dogs in Warrington schools. This measure is to deter drugs being brought into school and to detect drugs on individuals.</li> </ul>
<b>Management of alcohol or drugs incidents on school trips</b>	<p>The definition of an alcohol or drug incident will be the same as on school grounds.</p> <p>The protocol for following up on these incidents will be as detailed in the policy for incidents happening on school premises.</p>
<b>Protocol for an alcohol or drug incident.</b>	<p>Young people who misuse substances are vulnerable. Some may just be experimenting, but sometimes other risks or criminal activity could be at play: parental drug abuse, delinquent behaviour, sexual exploitation or gang affiliation. These individuals must be identified so they can be referred to youth services that use targeted interventions, education and counselling. Even if substance misuse is not an issue, it is crucial for any school to liaise with Local Drugs Action Teams (LDATs) where available, as they can help plan drug resources according to local needs.</p> <p>There will be a strict protocol followed whenever there is a drug incident on school grounds. As follows -</p> <p><b>Search &amp; Confiscate</b></p> <p>Headteachers (and staff authorised by them) have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have</p>

reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items include:

- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- any item that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence
- any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the Behaviour for Learning Policy as an item which may be searched for.

School staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search. They can also seize any item, however found, which they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline.

The charity Child Law Advice offers guidance about how to carry out searches in an appropriate manner. To ensure accountability, two staff members should be present and should maintain a record of the person searched, the reason for the search, the time and the place, the outcomes and action. The staff member carrying out the search should (where possible) be the same sex as the pupil, unless the staff member believes there is a risk to their safety if they were to carry out the search. Advice will also be in line with 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation.' (DfE Jan, 2018). The school's 'Behaviour for Learning' Policy will be adhered to in relation to sanctions and searches.

#### **Handling Illegal and Unauthorised Drugs and Drugs Paraphernalia**

If during a search alcohol or volatile substances are found and confiscated they will be disposed of by the member of staff authorised to conduct the search.

If during a search suspected illegal drugs are found and confiscated they will be kept in the temporary possession of the school until they are handed over to the police for disposal.

If any drugs paraphernalia that are deemed to pose a health risk to other students (such as discarded syringes) these will be safely removed and disposed of.

And confiscated substances should be treated as a controlled drug until police toxicologists determine otherwise; police will then determine whether to proceed with a caution or prosecution of the pupil under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) or Psychoactive Substances Act (2016).

#### **Parents & Visitors**

	<p>Any parent or person representing an outside agency who appears intoxicated on school premises will be asked to leave immediately. If they become aggressive or violent the police will be called immediately.</p> <p><b>Emergencies</b></p> <p>If any person involved in an alcohol or drug incident appears to be or becomes unwell, the schools will implement their emergency response plan.</p> <p><b>Parent Notification</b></p> <p>The parents or carers of any student involved with an alcohol or drug incident will be notified by phone on the day.</p> <p><b>The Role of the Local Police</b></p> <p>The police will be notified of any incident involving illegal drugs (or class A/B drugs depending on schools). They will not automatically be involved in other incidents; this will be at the discretion of the school.</p> <p><b>Alcohol &amp; Drug Incident Records</b></p> <p>The school will make and keep a full record of each incident. This will be stored in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (May 2018).</p> <p>The report will cover the support offered to any student and their family. It will also include police involvement and the consequences of this.</p> <p><b>Fixed Term &amp; Permanent Exclusions</b></p> <p>Schools may decide that some alcohol or drug incident warrants a temporary exclusion. Only the most serious incidents will result in permanent exclusions. In accordance with the St. Gregory's Behaviour for Learning Policy and Exclusion Policy.</p> <p>Schools will follow the Warrington Borough Council guidance when making exclusions from their school.</p> <p>Section 52(1) of the Education Act 2002 states that the Head teacher can exclude a pupil from school for a fixed period or permanently on the condition that the exclusion is "lawful, reasonable and fair." Pupils who are caught supplying NPS in school are committing a criminal offence, so the Secretary of State would not expect governing bodies or independent appeal panels to reinstate this pupil.</p>
<p><b>Student and Family Support Plan</b></p>	<p>Following any alcohol or drug incident the parents and carer will be asked to come into school to discuss an action plan.</p>

	<p>If the incident was part of a pattern of misbehaviour the school can decide to implement a 'Behaviour Support Plan'.</p> <p>A pastoral Support Programme (PSP) should be put in place for pupils who are suspected drug users, or those caught in possession of NPS. Note that under the Psychoactive Substances Act it is not an offence to possess certain NPS, such as Nitrous Oxide; however, many Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists (SCRAs) are Class B drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act, making their possession a criminal offence. It is crucial that PSP is implemented to ensure pupils' specific needs are met.</p> <p>It is advised that the student receives a session with the 'young person's substance misuse team' to be screened and given information advice and support. This may result in the young person becoming a client of the service. It may be decided that ongoing support with the school health service is more appropriate.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that the young person is being affected by parental or carer alcohol or drug use then the local safeguarding procedures will be put in place.</p> <p>The parents can also ask to be referred into alcohol or drug services and this will be facilitated by the youth substance misuse worker.</p>
<p><b>Local Agencies and sources of information</b></p>	<p><b>Warrington Young person's drug and alcohol team</b></p> <p>Orford Youth Base, Capesthorpe Road, Orford, Warrington, WA2</p> <p>01925 442440</p> <p><b>Footsteps</b></p> <p>Helping you to cope with someone else's drug or alcohol misuse</p> <p>Tel: 01925 244524</p> <p><b>The Gateway</b></p> <p>85 - 101 <b>Sankey Street Warrington</b> Cheshire WA1 1SR</p> <p>01925 246800</p> <p><a href="http://www.thegateway.org.uk/">http://www.thegateway.org.uk/</a></p> <p><b>FRANK</b></p> <p>National Drugs Helpline</p> <p>0300 123 6600</p>

<http://www.talktofrank.com/worried-about-a-child>

**DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools:** Advice for local authorities, head teachers, school staff and governing bodies (2012)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/>

[uploads/attachment\\_data/file/270169/drug\\_advice\\_for\\_schools.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf)

**Warrington School Health Service**

**Warrington Youth Service**

Orford Youth Base, Capesthorpe Road, Warrington, WA2 0J

01925 442440

**Education Safeguarding Team**

New Town House, Warrington

01925 443126