

## **DRUG POLICY**



**Date of Review: July 2024**

**Date of Next Review: July 2026**

# **DRUG EDUCATION & MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED SCHOOL INCIDENTS POLICY**

**Drug-related School incidents & Drug Counselling Co-ordinator:** Safeguarding Team member allocated

**Drug Education Co-ordinator:** Deputy Head- Behaviour and Welfare

**This policy applies to all students in St Angela's Ursuline School. The process of referral of concerns is the same for all sixth form students.**

## **AIMS**

In accordance with our Mission Statement which recognises the value of each and every student and the school's commitment to ensure that all are given the fullest encouragement and support to achieve their potential, St Angela's aims to provide support both educationally and pastorally to enable all its students to make informed choices and to receive positive help should drug-related problems arise. This policy on drug education and the handling of drug related incidents follows the same principles as all other school policies, acknowledging that young people are very vulnerable and meeting their needs must be our main concern and responsibility.

This policy will be made clear to our students through the Rise Up Day programme. Parents are informed that all policies are available from the school via the school website.

This policy is part of a suite of safeguarding policies and links to our behaviour, child protection, school visits and medical policies. It has been redrafted in line with the DFE and ACPO drug advice for schools 2012 and KCSIE.

## **OBJECTIVES**

To provide a high quality drug education programme, delivered primarily through PSHE learning but also through the wider curriculum, which will provide knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse and therefore to make informed decisions.

- To provide opportunities for students to develop the attitudes and skills needed to avoid drug misuse.
- To enable and encourage students who are misusing drugs to seek help.
- To make clear the school's attitude and response to drug education and to students who have drug-related problems in order to facilitate a clear and consistent approach to dealing with drug-related incidents and drug education.

## **Definition of ‘Drug’**

A drug is a psychoactive substance that alters the consciousness and mood of the people of who use them. People often take them to change the way they think or behave. (United Nations Office on Drugs and crime.) Some people may refer to these as “legal high”, however since May 2016 all psychoactive substances are now either under the control of the Misuse of Drug Act 1971 or subject to the psychoactive substance act 2016.

The term drug refers to medicine, alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances and other unauthorised substances. (ref: The Psychoactive Substance Act 2016).

The following statements refer to situations involving illegal drugs and solvents. The school policy on smoking and alcohol will be stated separately.

## **Drug-related Incidents and Situations**

The school’s response to any suspicion or evidence of drug abuse is a carefully controlled and a planned one, in keeping with the Newham Drug Education and Pastoral Guidelines.

The school procedure will follow the guidelines set out in appendix 1, copies of which are with every HOY, the SENCO, the Deputy Head and the students.

## **Referral of concerns**

Any member of staff hearing of or suspecting the use of drugs or solvents should report the matter to the Deputy Head for Behaviour or the Designated Safeguarding Lead who has responsibility for co-ordinating responses and referrals. Disclosure by the student is not a prerequisite for taking action. Staff should use the online safeguarding concern reporting form (see child protection policy).

All information gathered, reasons for action and inaction are kept separately and confidentially by the co-ordinators on the students safeguard ‘digital record’.

## **Response to concerns**

All incidents will be responded to individually, taking into account all aspects of the situation. These include the age, background, physical and mental health of the young person, those involved, the drug involved, the risks, whether school rules were broken, and whether the activity was illegal. Having considered these, decisions will then be made regarding whether to involve the parents, the police, children's services, CAMHS, an outside drugs advice agency recommended, and whether the matter will be dealt with confidentiality or not. **The school has no legal right to break confidentiality without the student’s permission unless there are issues of child protection, terrorism, illegal activity, or breach of school rules. Possession or supply of drugs on school property is a clear example of illegal activity and breach of school rules in which case confidentiality may be broken.**

**The final decision of how to respond to drug-related incidents will be the Headteacher's. Exclusion is not an automatic result of any drug-related incident, although suspension may be an appropriate response in some cases and permanent exclusion might be warranted as a sanction when the welfare of students in the school is endangered.**

Where the decision is taken that neither parents nor police will be involved, the student will be encouraged to speak to their parents. In addition the school will refer the student to the local Drugs Advice Agency/ Counsellor who will advise which agency to contact to carry out an assessment in respect to treatment. This will be confidential – see teacher guidelines below.

### **Teacher guidelines for responding to drug use by students**

#### **Confidentiality**

The Safeguarding team members will work with students to support them. While students should always be encouraged to tell their parents if they have a drug-related problem, staff must be clear that all young people have the legal right to confidentiality regarding access to advice and information services. Parents should not be informed when a student requests help around drug use unless the student has consented.

Teachers must not themselves give advice, only information. See link below.  
(FRANK - <http://www.talktofrank.com/>)

Students requesting advice should be directed to the local drugs advice agency. See appendix 2.

#### **Health and Safety**

The school will be watchful when taking students on school trips, when the opportunity for drug use may present itself. This includes smoking and the drinking of alcohol. The rules regarding this and the sanctions for breaking these rules should be made clear at the beginning of all such trips.

#### **Medical Emergency**

If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs/alcohol on the school premises/trip the school will prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. Acute intoxication, physical collapse or unconsciousness can result from drug or solvent abuse. In a drug-related emergency, staff should contact the lead medical welfare officer or another trained first-aider so that medical help can be given. The safeguarding team should also be informed immediately.

## **Discovery of Drugs on the School Premises**

Any drugs found on school premises when the owner cannot be identified should be passed to the Deputy Head or DSL who will contact the Police Youth and Community section immediately. This section of the police has an established working relationship with the school, and already plays a part in the Rise Up programme providing input on a variety of issues to the students in a classroom situation.

## **Legal Drugs**

The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but schools may wish to inform trading standards or police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to pupils in the local area via the Reporter Consumer Crime Tool

[website https://www.londontradingstandards.org.uk/report-consumer-crime/](https://www.londontradingstandards.org.uk/report-consumer-crime/)

Under the Nicotine Inhaling Products (Age of Sale and Proxy Purchasing) Regulations 2015, it is illegal to sell vape products to anyone under 18 or for adults to purchase on their behalf.

Young people are becoming increasingly aware of, and in some cases using, new psychoactive substances (NPS). These are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs but are structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Despite being labelled as legal these substances are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess. New psychoactive substances should be included in the school drug policy as unauthorised substances and treated as such. If there is uncertainty about what the substance is, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

## **Controlled drugs**

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs schools are advised to:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;
- notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so;
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;
- inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil;
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response (see below).

## **The Supply of Drugs**

In cases where staff become aware that drugs are being supplied to students either on or off the school premises, whether being sold or shared, whether by adults or other young

people, the Deputy Head must be informed. They will then contact the Police Youth and Community section. All students involved, whether supplying or receiving will be referred to the local drugs advice agency. School sanctions will be decided by the Headteacher having followed the previous mentioned considerations when dealing with a drug-related incident

### **Staff conduct and drugs**

Staff are made aware in the induction process and through the professional standards expected at St Angela's Ursuline School that drinking alcohol and other drug use in school hours and on trips is not permitted.

### **Smoking and Alcohol**

**Vaping devices are prohibited within the school premises, as is any form of tobacco product.**

**Students are not permitted to smoke on the premises or on any school trip. This also applies to Vaping devices .**

Students found smoking, or, believed to be smoking including e-cigarettes/shisha pens/ vapes because of the situation in which they are found, will be subject to the school sanctions and their parents informed

Standard letters are available from the HOYs who should be informed of the incident.

The following steps should be taken if a student is found to be vaping:

1. Discuss concerns with the designated safeguarding lead and deputy head .
2. Consider a warning letter or phone call home, sharing information on the health risks of vaping with a consent letter from the parent highlighting their responsibility to reinforce the message.
3. Refer the young person for support if they have been identified vaping to either CGL Newham Rise if the young person is using harmful substances in their vapes or Quit Well Newham for nicotine vaping.

**Students and staff are not permitted to consume alcohol on the premises of any school trip.**

If a student is found in possession of alcohol at school or under the influence of alcohol the same procedure for dealing with drug-related incidents will be followed.

If the student is under the influence of alcohol, staff should involve the lead Medical Welfare Officer who will inform the Deputy Head, all aspects of the situation will be taken into account before the school's response is decided.

Whether or not parents are informed, the student will be referred to the appropriate agency, [DFE Drugs guidance for schools](#).

## **Appendix One- Procedure**

The procedures for an emergency apply when a person is at immediate risk of harm. A person who is unconscious, having trouble breathing, seriously confused or disoriented or who has taken a harmful toxic substance, should be responded to as an emergency. Your main responsibility is for any student at immediate risk, but you also need to ensure the well-being and safety of others. Put into practice your school's first-aid procedures. If in any doubt, call medical help.

### **Always:**

- assess the situation
- if a medical emergency, send for medical help and ambulance.

### **Before assistance arrives**

If the person is *conscious*:

- ask them what has happened and to identify any drug used
- collect any drug sample and any vomit for medical analysis
- do not induce vomiting
- do not chase or over-excite them if intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance
- keep them under observation, warm and quiet.

If the person is *unconscious*:

- ensure that they can breathe and place in the recovery position
- do not move them if a fall is likely to have led to spinal or other serious injury which may not be obvious
- do not give anything by mouth
- do not attempt to make them sit or stand
- do not leave them unattended or in the charge of another student
- notify parents/carers

For needle stick (sharps) injuries:

- encourage wound to bleed. Do not suck. Wash with soap and water. Dry and apply waterproof dressing
- if used/dirty needle seek advice from a doctor.

### **When medical help arrives**

- pass on any information available, including vomit and any drug samples.

Complete a medical record form as soon as you have dealt with the emergency.

(Adapted from: *The Right Responses* [DrugScope, 1999])

## Appendix Two – Useful Organisations

### **Newham :**

**Change Grow Live (CGL) – Newham Rise: Change Grow Live** Newham Rise support children and young people in Newham who are using drugs and/or alcohol including vapes, particularly modified vapes containing THC and other known drugs.

- The service has a team of experts who can support the young person to reduce their use, stop or understand how to do things more safely.

- CGL offer education and awareness workshops to schools, colleges and youth zones including training for professionals and partners in the community.

**Contact details: Online: <https://www.changegrowlive.org/rise-newham/referrals>**

**Opening hrs: Monday – Friday (9am – 5pm)**

**Telephone: 0800 652 3879**

**Email: [NewhamYP@cgl.org.uk](mailto:NewhamYP@cgl.org.uk)**

### **Quit Well Newham:**

**Our specialist stop smoking service, Quit Well Newham** offer Newham residents age 12+ with free advice and support to quit smoking and offer nicotine vaping cessation.

Contact details:

**Online: <https://www.wellnewham.org.uk/advice/stop-smoking>**

**Opening hrs: Monday – Friday (8:30am – 5:30pm)**

**Telephone: 0207 882 8230**

**Email: [bhnt.smokersclinic@nhs.net](mailto:bhnt.smokersclinic@nhs.net)**

**Addaction** is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: [www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)

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

Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk) Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Alcohol Concern** 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 7264 0510. Email: [contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.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 7739 5902 Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk) Website: [www.ash.org.uk](http://www.ash.org.uk)

**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 877910 Email: [clc@essex.ac.uk](mailto:clc@essex.ac.uk) Website: [www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)

**Children's Rights Alliance for England** - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: [info@crae.org.uk](mailto:info@crae.org.uk) Website: [www.crae.org.uk](http://www.crae.org.uk)

**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 7307 7450 Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk/](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/)

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

Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

**Drug Education Forum** – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners:

Website: [www.drugeducationforum.com/](http://www.drugeducationforum.com/) 14

**DrugScope** 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. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: [info@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:info@drugscope.org.uk) Website: [www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.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: 0800 776600 Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com)

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

**Mentor UK** is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email [admin@mentoruk.org](mailto:admin@mentoruk.org) Website: [www.mentoruk.org.uk](http://www.mentoruk.org.uk)

**National Children's Bureau** promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000

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

**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: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://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. Tel: 01785 817885

Information line: 01785 810762 Email: [information@re-solv.org](mailto:information@re-solv.org) Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

**Smokefree** - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169

Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

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

Website: [www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk](http://www.starsnationalinitiative.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.

Tel: 0208 439 2361