



St Peter & St Paul
Catholic Voluntary Academy
Pro Petro Paulo Patria

Policy Document
Status: Approved
Confidentiality level: Public

Substance Misuse Policy

Policy Ref No. PSU 01

'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'

John 10:10

*"Our school is a community where Jesus Christ is our role model and his message the guiding principle behind all we do.
Every member of our community is responsible for creating an environment that is caring, fair and respectful of each individual.
We develop our potential, celebrate our talents and go forward together in faith."*

Christ is the foundation of everything we do and the Gospels provide us with our influence and inspiration. We are therefore committed to promoting:

The uniqueness of the individual

We believe that every person is a unique individual, created in God's image and loved by Him. We are therefore committed to treat every person with equality of esteem and the respect and dignity due to a child of God.

The search for excellence

We are called to seek perfection in all aspects of our lives. We celebrate the enrichment of the total community, which flows from diversity of age, gender, racial and social origins, abilities, culture and religion. We are therefore committed to ensure that all are to be given every opportunity to develop their talents to the full.

The education of the whole person

We offer young people the experience of life in a community founded on Gospel values and working in harmony. Through this and a variety of educational experiences and interactions we aim to prepare young people for a life working with others in communities which maybe diverse socially, culturally and religiously. We recognise that it is also important to help pupils to understand their own ethnic identity and cultural heritage as well as helping them to understand that of others irrespective of whether the school serves or is located in an ethnically diverse community.

The education of all

We have the duty of care for all to ensure that we provide for those who are socially, academically, physically, emotionally or financially disadvantaged.

Moral principles

Our belief in the Gospel message commits us to be in the forefront of the movement for social and racial justice and harmony. We believe this is fundamental to the common good. We aim to prepare our young people to serve as witnesses to these moral and spiritual values in the wider world.

Consequently, we still strive to ensure that:

Any person recruited to the service of the school, whether as a member of staff or as a volunteer, is made fully aware of our aims and objectives and required to support them;

Children who are admitted to the school and their families are fully aware of our aims and objectives and undertake to support them;

All of our structures and policies are evaluated and kept under constant review in order to see that no individual is subject in any way to unlawful discrimination, whether intentional or unintentional, and to ensure that all are enabled to reach their full potential.

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Introduction

Our academy community will protect the young people in our care from intoxicating, harmful and illegal substances which can damage their health, encourage dependency and addiction, may lead to anti-social behaviour and could have potentially tragic consequences.

We will educate our students with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to make informed and healthy choices. We make regular use of outside agencies to work with small groups and larger whole academy or year groups. Addiction work effectively with individuals at the academy as required.

Smoking

Smoking (including e-cigarettes) is prohibited on academy premises, during academy trips and when students are travelling to and from the academy in uniform. This is because the academy is in 'loco parentis' which essentially means the academy has the right to act as it sees appropriate in the best interests of the students.

If students are caught smoking, admit to smoking, seen associating with smokers (standing in close proximity), gathered in a suspicious manner in a 'traditional smoking area', smell of smoke, or have smoking paraphernalia on them, they will be disciplined and parents informed. Staff reserve the right to search any student where suspected possession of smoking equipment exists.

All smoking equipment will be confiscated and destroyed. If the substance being smoked is not tobacco i.e. drugs, legal highs etc. then more serious sanctions may be considered including permanent exclusion. Permanent exclusion will be used where some form of distribution or supply is carried out or clear attempts to persuade other students to engage in the act occur.

The Academy reserves the right to sanction accordingly, including under the terms of the Exclusion Policy.

Alcohol

The above rules apply for alcohol consumption by students.

The Academy reserves the right to sanction accordingly, including under the terms of the Exclusion Policy.

Solvent misuse

The abuse of aerosols, solvent-based glues and other inhalants which may cause intoxication will result in sanctions and confiscations similar to the rules on smoking.

The Academy reserves the right to sanction accordingly, including under the terms of the Exclusion Policy.

Illegal substances and 'legal highs'

The academy will not tolerate the possession of or use of illegal substances or legal highs (due to the unknown risks associated with these products) on academy premises, on Academy organised events, or while the students is travelling to or from the academy, where the academy is in loco parentis.

The possession of an illegal substance or legal high will result in a minimum of a significant fixed term exclusion, and communication with parents and possibly police. A significant quantity of the product on the student or a repeat offence will likely result in a permanent exclusion.

Where evidence exists of selling, sharing or dispersal of the above products, a permanent exclusion will be issued to the student bringing the product into the academy and also those cooperating with the distribution and or consumption.

Police and other agencies will be involved where appropriate.

The Academy reserves the right to sanction accordingly, including under the terms of the Exclusion Policy.