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THE CARDINAL VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Amare et Servire

THE CARDINAL VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL TRUST

DRUGS POLICY

This policy and procedure was approved and adopted by The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School on 1 February 2021 and is reviewed annually.

THE CARDINAL VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL

DRUGS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This policy takes as its cornerstone the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into account the needs of others and the common good. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2288)

The Church teaches as follows in respect of illegal drugs:

The *use of drugs* inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offence. Clandestine production of and trafficking in drugs are scandalous practices. They constitute direct co-operation in evil, since they encourage people to practices gravely contrary to the moral law. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2291)

Therefore, the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School:

- does not condone the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs;
- does not condone the possession, use or supply of alcohol, tobacco, or any other such legal drug, or the inappropriate possession, misuse or supply of medication or volatile substances such as gases, glues and aerosols;
- is committed to health and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being;
- will educate pupils about the consequences of drug misuse.

The term 'drug', as used in this policy, refers to illegal drugs, to edibles, to legal drugs, such as alcohol and tobacco, to medicinal drugs, and to volatile substances, such as gases, glues and aerosols.

Drug education and prevention

The School has a policy on drug education. Education about drugs is included in National Curriculum Science. The School also covers the topic across the curriculum.

The School has a policy on drug prevention. This policy describes what the School does to help pupils to live healthy and fulfilled lives; the promotion of an awareness of the dangers of drug-taking lies at the heart of its aims.

Drug-related incidents

The School has a policy on how to deal with drug-related incidents. Drug-related incidents may take place within the School, in the immediate neighbourhood of the School's building, or in another setting where it is nevertheless having an impact on the young people for whom the School is responsible. Ensuring that drug-related incidents are appropriately dealt with is part of effective drug prevention.

POLICY ON DRUG EDUCATION

The School aims, in its drug education programme, to:

- improve pupils' knowledge of drugs and their effects on the human body;
- raise pupils' awareness of the consequences of drug use and abuse to the
- individual, the family, peers, local communities and society;
- enable pupils to develop a range of skills and techniques appropriate for dealing with situations related to drugs.

The School will seek to achieve these aims as a result of:

- its drug education programme which forms part of its PSHE curriculum. This
- covers a wide range of other topics. Drug education is also included in National Curriculum Science and Religious Education;
- opportunities that arise within the rest of the curriculum, such as, for example, in Physical Education.

The School aims to ensure that all pupils have equal access to a high standard of drug education. The approach, and level of detail, needs to be matched to the age and maturity of the pupils; for example, pupils with special educational needs may require additional support. If the School involves outside contributors in its drug education programmes, it will ensure that they are the most appropriate people to be involved.

POLICY ON DRUG PREVENTION

The School aims, by its drug prevention activities, to:

- ensure that pupils know the disciplinary and legal consequences of drug-related activity;
- ensure that the School's premises are a safe environment with respect to drugs;
- have in place a policy on drug education;
- be prepared to talk to pupils about any drug-related problems.

The School will seek to achieve these aims by:

- being aware of matters relating to confidentiality so that, if pupils want to discuss problems with a member of staff, they can do so knowing the limits of the School's ability to guarantee confidentiality;
- requiring any member of staff who becomes aware of any issue connected with any pupil's use, possession or supply of drugs to pass that information on in the first instance to the Head of School, the member of staff designated to co-ordinate action within the School;
- taking account of the advice of the police;
- working together with parents to reinforce prevention messages.

Prevention also flows from the School's policy on drug education and from the policy on the management of drug-related incidents.

POLICY ON DRUG-RELATED INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

The School will deal with drug-related incidents by:

- advising all staff about dealing with drug-related incidents;
- encouraging staff to attend relevant first aid courses;
- having clear procedures for contacting parents in cases of drug-related incidents;
- informing the relevant authorities (e.g. the police) if necessary and/or if appropriate;
- ensuring that proper steps are taken to store, analyse and dispose of any substances in a safe and appropriate manner;
- linking the drug-related incident management policy to other relevant policies, such as the Inclusion Policy, the Behaviour and Pupil Well-Being Policy, the Health and Safety Policy and the PSHE Policy;
- requiring parents to inform the School in writing of any medication to be taken by their children and by ensuring that appropriate records are made of the occasions on which such medication is taken.

In cases of the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs – including edibles and 'legal highs' – the Head of School, after weighing the particulars of the situation, will normally impose a permanent exclusion.

In cases of the possession of drugs paraphernalia, such as cannabis grinders, the Head of School will, after weighing the particulars of the situation, impose the disciplinary sanction he deems most appropriate; this may entail the imposition of a suspension or permanent exclusion.

In cases of the possession, use, misuse or supply of alcohol, tobacco (including e-cigarettes), volatile substances or medication, or any other such legal drug, the Head of School will, after weighing the particulars of the situation, impose the disciplinary sanction he deems most appropriate; this may entail the imposition of a suspension or permanent exclusion.

THE ROLE OF STAFF

All staff must recognise the importance of their own professional status and personal example for the pupils in the School's care (both within and outside the School: professionalism entails using judgement over appropriate standards of personal behaviour with regard to the taking, purchasing or use of drugs. Any illegal involvement with drugs could result in disciplinary measures being taken. This is applicable to all teachers, non-teaching staff, local governors and partner agencies working within the School.

REVIEWING THE POLICY

The School will evaluate and review this policy annually.