



DRUGS POLICY

Mission Statement

“Trinity is a Catholic learning community devoted to the Common Good, which calls all by name to the knowledge of the Father and love of the Son, enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit”.

Overall aims of policy

Trinity Catholic School condones neither the misuse nor the supply of drugs, alcohol or other substances by members of the school.

The purpose of the school drug policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school’s approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies

This policy applies to all school staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and other partner agencies working with the school.

The behaviour policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and visitors to the School. The policy will apply:

- on all School site
- at Alternative Provision
- when staff and pupils are engaged in School activities on external sites
- during the transport of students.

DEFINITION OF DRUGS

This is from the current DfES guidance:

The term 'drugs' refers to:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers)
- All over the counter and prescription medicines

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General statement

Drug education will be aimed at primary prevention and improving personal and social skills.

Drug education should be integrated into the curriculum and should not be treated as an isolated topic if we are to avoid creating a sensation out of the drug issue.

We have to accept that drugs are very much a part of our society and adopt a realistic goal for drug education – that of reducing the number of people encountering problems from drug use. This, of course, involves not only the problems that the individual may encounter but also problems to family, friends and society as a whole.

Laws relating to drug use also play a part in deciding how different societies view drug problems. It is essential that young people are familiar with the legal implications of drug use both in this country and abroad.

Our policy must be to develop individuals who are capable of informed decision making. The opportunity to clarify attitudes and values, both individual and social, is also essential to people who are in control of their own decisions and their own lives.

Policy aims

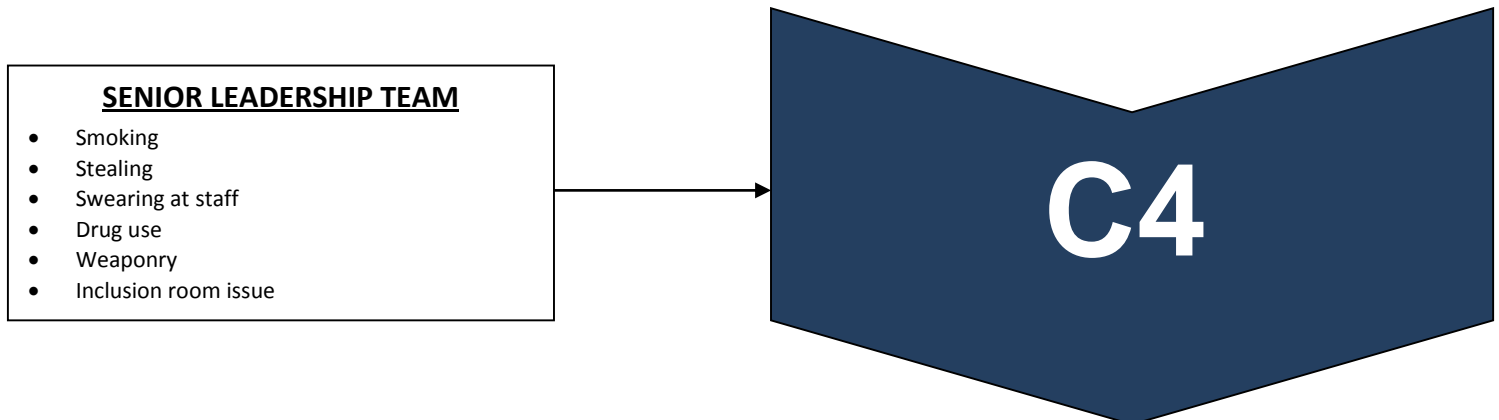
We believe and support the following aims in respect of substance use and misuse:

- To enable students to make healthy and informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To provide accurate and up to date information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of those substances.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues eg sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.
- To seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face.

- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Incidences of Drug Use or Possession on School Site

This part of the policy relates specifically to Section 6 (C4) of the Behaviour Policy as defined below:



Upon suspicion of drug use or possession on school site, the following actions should be taken

1. The student(s) should be taken to an office/area of the school away from other students.
2. An additional member of staff must be present
3. A request should then be made to search the students possessions including blazer, pockets and bag. The student should be asked if there is anything in the pockets/bag that may injure the searcher
4. A search is then undertaken
5. Any illegal substances, any substances held illegally and any items which may cause harm must be confiscated
6. In the event of student withholding items described above, police assistance should be sought.
7. A decision made on actions taken by the school and parents contacted with details of the intended actions

Actions in the event of finding drug use or possession

1. If a student is found in possession of drugs or in possession of drug material, the following must be considered prior to taking a decision on action:
2.
 - If there is a potential for distribution to students in the school
 - The extent and/or quantity of drugs or drug equipment
 - Previous behaviour referrals and behaviour record

3. If an exclusion (FTE or PEX) is considered to be the most appropriate sanction, guidance must be followed in accordance with the Exclusion policy