

FINCHLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DRUGS POLICY

OUR GENERAL POSITION:

For the purposes of this document, reference to a drug would include tobacco, alcohol, solvents, as well as illegal drugs.

Finchley Catholic High School is a drug free environment for all students and staff at all times because -

- Drug usage is detrimental to learning
- Drug usage often leads to anti-social behaviour and harms relationships
- Drug usage damages the dignity and spiritual well being of the person
- Many drugs are illegal to possess, use or trade
- Research shows that there are both short term and long term harmful effects from drugs usage

This view is endorsed and actively promoted by all staff and governors of the School, and we expect pupils and parents to be supportive.

In practice –

- Medicines, prescribed or otherwise are to be given to the School's Medical Officer, with a covering note and will be dispensed accordingly
- The inappropriate possession or use, in school or on the way to or from it, of tobacco, alcohol or solvents is banned
- The possession or use of illegal substances is regarded as a serious breach of school rules and may lead to police involvement

- The selling or distribution of prohibited substances is completely incompatible with school ethos and policy and may lead to permanent exclusion
- Students in the sixth form may possess tobacco but are not to smoke on or near to school premises and are encouraged to refrain entirely

POLICY AIMS

The school is strongly opposed to substance misuse. However, there is also a recognition that schools have an important educational and pastoral role to play. To that end, the school will seek:

1. to provide accurate information to pupils and parents about substances
2. to increase the understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
3. to encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance abuse
4. to widen understanding about related health, moral, and social issues
5. to seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
6. to enable young people to make informed decisions and provide them with the skills to resist unwelcome pressure
7. to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support
8. to promote the advantages of a drug free lifestyle
9. to dissuade students from experimental and recreational drug use
10. to hold Information Evenings (including the use of Outside Agencies) for parents so that they feel better informed about the school's provision and how this relates to their sons.

HOW WILL THESE AIMS BE ACHIEVED?

Drugs education is an important part of the PSHE programme delivered during the tutorial period to all years. This is complimented by subject specific contributions from the science and physical education departments amongst others. Opportunities to reinforce learning and develop positive

attitudes and confidence arise in a variety of situations, for example assemblies.

STAFF GUIDANCE (DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS)

Staff discovering or suspecting drug abuse on the premises must give priority to considerations of health and safety with respect to the suspects, other pupils, members of staff, or anyone else present.

1. A teacher should not keep an incident of substance use/abuse confidential to themselves, but the investigation should be dealt with in a professional and sensitive manner.
2. Upon discovering an incident the teacher should report it immediately to a senior member of staff. The incident should be reported as soon as possible to the student's Pastoral Leader.
3. The student should be immediately removed from lessons whilst the matter is investigated.
4. The Headteacher should be informed in every case and may involve the Police, Youth and Community Section at his discretion.
5. Parents/carers should be informed and asked to come to school to discuss the incident as a matter of urgency and the students will be removed from school activities for an appropriate time.
6. Every case should be dealt with as quickly as possible to avoid delays, danger to other students, embarrassment to the institution and worry to the family.
7. In any offence the student will be advised to seek counselling and the student's parents/carers will be given the names of appropriate agencies.

8. All cases should be recorded in order to facilitate monitoring of substance use/abuse.

Where a member of staff is aware of substance abuse off the premises they should report this to a senior member of staff as soon as possible who will use their discretion to decide upon appropriate action.

ADDITIONAL ADVICE TO STAFF

The following guidelines should be observed at all times:

1. Remove substance from person or place with a witness present, if possible.
2. Do not investigate the nature of the substance, but record its approximate size and appearance. Place in an envelope, seal, sign, and record the date and time.
3. Where possible have the recordings countersigned by a witness.
4. Take the substance to the Headteacher or Deputy. Do not keep the substance in a safe place or upon your person, this may put you at risk.
5. In the event of a discovery of any equipment associated with substance use especially needles and syringes, report it to a member of SLT and arrangements will be made for the safe disposal of such items.