



Whole School Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Policy

St Christopher's Church of England High School

Compiled by:	Miss D Sutton & Mrs L Williamson		
Approved by:	Governing Body		
Last reviewed on:	December 2025	Next review due by:	December 2026

St Christopher's CE High School Mission Statement

St Christopher's is a Church of England Academy where pupils and staff work together, in the knowledge and love of God. We try to act out our faith in daily life, with Christ as our example.

Within our strong Christian, Anglican context, we seek to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of our pupils, growing together as a caring and supportive community whilst preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of their adult lives.

We aim to achieve our mission by providing an environment which

- recognises that each member of the school community is an individual with specific needs and strengths
- fosters mutual respect and concern for others
- values the contribution made by each member of the school community
- encourages and celebrates positive achievement
- actively supports those in need.

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Rationale and Ethos

In our caring Church School, we wish to provide a safe environment for all pupils and students, ensuring their protection from harmful substances. We acknowledge the importance of the school's pastoral role in the welfare of young people. Through the general ethos of the school, education and our pastoral structure, we will seek to support any individual in need of help.

St Christopher's CE High School aims to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding of our pupils so that they are able to make informed decisions and adopt a healthy lifestyle through a planned programme of Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and supported through the Science curriculum.

The aims of this policy are:

- to promote healthy lifestyles
- to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff
- to clarify the school's response to any drug related incidents.

This policy applies to all pupils/students, parents, staff (teaching and non-teaching) and governors. It also applies to outside agencies working with the school.

A drug is defined as any substance which alters the way in which the body or mind works. The term drug relates to all substances which are open to misuse including:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco and E-cigs
- Medicines – available over the counter and prescribed
- Volatile substances e.g. aerosols, alkyl nitrates
- Illegal drugs and other unauthorised substances e.g. cannabis, mephedrone, ecstasy.

Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher	Mr R Jones
Senior DSL	Mrs S Parkinson / Mrs L Williamson
Deputy DSLs	Mr R O'Doherty, Miss H Davies, Miss S Holmes, Mrs B Mulhall
Head of PSHE & Careers Education	Miss D Sutton
Link Governor	Mrs C Wightman

Creating a safe and supportive learning environment

We seek to provide a safe, secure learning environment for DATE through the PSHE curriculum enabling children and young people to gain accurate knowledge, explore their own values and attitudes, and develop skills to grow into happy, confident and successful adults. Time is also spent helping pupils to develop the skills needed to deal with situations relating to drug use.

Each substance incident is considered individually and we recognise that a variety of responses are necessary. We consider very carefully the implications of any actions, in order to balance the interests of the pupil/student involved, the other school members and the local community.

Relevant local data and information related to DATE is used to inform planning and to address the identified needs of the whole school community e.g. Encompass referrals, LCC data and CPD feedback.

Age appropriate curriculum content

Year 8 PSHE: Pupils are introduced to drug education, covering caffeine, tobacco, alcohol and e-cigs.

Year 10 PSHE: Knowledge is developed further and in greater depth, covering illegal drug use, new psychoactive substances and energy drinks.

Year 8 Science: Pupils focus on drugs, smoking and alcohol, covering the differences between depressants and stimulants and the effects of drugs, smoking and alcohol on the body.

SEND, inclusion, equality and diversity

We promote the needs and interests of all pupils, irrespective of gender, culture, ability or aptitude. PSHE teaching will take into account the ability, age, readiness, and cultural backgrounds of our young pupils and those with English as a second language to ensure that all can fully access DATE provision, being considerate of differing life experience.

We promote British Values and expect our pupils to show a high regard for the needs of others in all aspects of school life. We will use this DATE Policy to address diversity issues as relevant and to ensure consistent equality of education and response to incidents.

Intended outcomes

The learning outcomes of our PSHE programme will be that pupils will:

- know and understand the different kinds of drugs and their effects
- understand they have a right to say “No”
- understand they have a responsibility to look after themselves and their friends
- be empowered to make healthy choices in life.

Involvement and consultation of pupils

- Pupils have been involved in the creation of this policy through discussion at School Council
- Pupils’ needs and the issues they are facing will be identified by discussion in lessons, confidential Q&A and CPD relating to local issues undertaken by the PSHEE Coordinator.
- Pupils’ views of what is currently being taught will help to inform the curriculum by pupil discussion, termly PSHEE staff surveys and cross-curricular liaison e.g. with the Science curriculum.

Procedures for dealing with drug-related issues

Medicines

We depend upon parents to inform us fully when a child needs to use medicines either during the school day or when on a school trip. Parents should contact school and liaise with Mrs Lane (St.

Christopher’s Medical Support Team) where regular long-term medication is required. Where supervised distribution of a medicine is needed, this should be delivered by a parent, (labelled with name and instructions) to Reception. If a child is taking the responsibility for their own medication, then he/she should carry only that which is sufficient for one day, clearly labelled named.

Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco or E-cig misuse

Any form of smoking, use of drugs (non-medicinal) or consumption of alcohol is forbidden.

Incidents may take place in school, but the same standards of behaviour are expected, but not limited to, the journey to and from school, at a place of work experience, on a school visit/trip, in free time where it impacts on the reputation of St. Christopher’s school, when representing the school in any capacity or when placed in an alternative provision or managed move at another educational setting. Offences will be dealt with by the pupil’s Heads of Year, working with a member of SLT. **An investigation will take place and the appropriate action will be decided, then shared with parents and pupils.**

In all these situations, pupils and students are viewed as representing St. Christopher’s and as such have an obligation not to “bring the school name into disrepute” (Behaviour Policy 2023).

Possession of any smoking/e-smoking paraphernalia, alcohol or drugs will also result in further action.

Tobacco and E-cigs

In line with national legislation, as in all public buildings, smoking of any form is not permitted anywhere on school premises. Persistent offenders will be seen as refusing to accept the discipline of the school (Open Defiance) and more severe sanctions will be imposed. Possession or use of tobacco/e-cigs will be considered as a serious offence and an appropriate sanction used to address the situation.

Alcohol

When, on occasion, students are allowed to consume a small amount of alcohol, proof of ID will be required e.g. Sixth Form social events. Alcohol on the school premises is banned for all students and staff. Social events organised by the school and taking place in the school follow the appropriate licensing laws.

Illegal substances (includes legal highs)

If a pupil/student is found to be in possession of a controlled drug on school premises in order to supply the substance to others, it is likely to result in a permanent exclusion.

If a pupil/student is found to be in possession of any drug paraphernalia on school premises, they are likely to receive a serious consequence, including fixed term exclusion.

Confiscation of banned or inappropriate items

Where a pupil or a student is suspected of bringing a prohibited item or substance to school, a search of pockets and bags may be required. A staff witness will be present in this instance. Any prohibited item or substance will be handed into the office and where appropriate, the item may be handed to the police. Otherwise, a senior teacher will decide if and when to return the item, or whether to dispose of it. Occasionally, random searches are carried out to ensure that school rules are being followed.

When taking temporary possession and disposing of a suspected controlled drug, school staff should: ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout; seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of date and time of the find and witnesses present; store it in a secure location and arrange for a member of SMT to liaise with the police with regard to the incident as appropriate.

Drugs related excerpts from the Whole School Behaviour Policy

Serious Offences

Incidents may take place in school, but the same standards of behaviour are expected, but not limited to, the journey to and from school, at a place of work experience, on a school visit/trip, in free time where it impacts on the reputation of St. Christopher's school, when representing the school in any capacity or when placed in an alternative provision or managed move at another educational setting. Offences of a serious nature will be dealt with by the pupil's Heads of Year, working with a member of SMT. **An investigation will take place and the appropriate action will be decided, then shared with parents and pupils. (Behaviour Policy 2023)**

These offences include but are not limited to:

- Possession or use of banned items
- Intoxication
- Dealing drugs or alcohol
- Actions which impact on the reputation of St Christopher's CE High School.

Sixth Form Specific Information

Drug and Alcohol Misuse

St Christopher's is a strictly drug and alcohol free environment. Any student found in possession of any non-prescribed substance will be automatically suspended pending further investigation.

Banned substances include new psychoactive substances (legal highs). Once the investigation is concluded the student might be excluded permanently. Anyone found supplying drugs will be excluded and the police will be informed.

- 2.1 If students' behaviour falls short in the following areas further action may be required:
- Smoking (including e-cigs) anywhere in or around the building.

2.2 Final Formal Warning

- i. A final stage formal warning will normally be given to students by the Head of Sixth Form in the presence of the appropriate Head of Year if:
- Students commit a serious behavioural offence which warrant more than a first or second stage formal warning; examples of such offences include:
 - Being under the influence of alcohol, legal highs or drugs, or dealing in the same.
 - Conduct which could threaten the health and safety of others.

Students will be advised that failure to comply with the terms of the final warning will normally result in exclusion, either fixed-term or permanent

1. Exclusion Procedure

- i. Students may be excluded, if an offence is committed which is regarded as so serious that there are grounds for a fixed-term exclusion and may lead to permanent exclusion. These offences include but are not limited to:
- Violation of the school rules and procedures regarding health and safety
 - Use of or dealing in drugs
 - Incapability as a result of being intoxicated by alcohol

Smoking

St Christopher's Sixth Form is a non-smoking institution. Students must not smoke anywhere on or near the Sixth Form or school premises. Students may only leave the building during lunch breaks or during free periods in Year 13. **We do not encourage our students to smoke.** However, students need to, they must ensure that they are away from the vicinity of the school building, away from the front of other people's houses, or local schools, and should not be seen by school pupils or staff.

E-Cigarettes or vapes are not allowed to be used anywhere on the school premises.

Staff conduct and drugs

In line with the DfE document: "Guidance for Safer Working Practice ", staff are expected to adopt high standards of personal conduct at all times and to be aware that safe practice also involves using judgement and integrity about behaviours in places other than the workplace.

Links to Other Policies

Whole School Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Equality Policy.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in July 2024 by Mrs L Williamson and Miss D Sutton. This will ensure that policy is updated and reflects current legislation and guidance.



**That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither-
whatever they do prospers.**

Psalm 1:3



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