

Childwall Abbey School

Drugs Policy



"A calm, safe and welcoming place in which to work and learn.

A place where everyone supports each other to achieve.

A place we enjoy coming to each day."

Date:	September 2019
To be reviewed:	2020

Ethos of the school

Childwall Abbey School actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the school takes a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our policies.

This is a school where human rights are respected; the responsibility to maintain high standards of behaviour lies with all members of Childwall Abbey School community. It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist and appropriate decisions have to be made.

Education and Prevention

Age appropriate education and support is provided through assemblies, PSHCE, science lessons as well as form time.

Students are also signposted to the FRANK online advice service and to ADDACTION. The School Mentor, Pastoral Team and School Health also offer support.

Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances. By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

Drugs on school premises

School premises, for this purpose, includes everything within the property boundaries, buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

Medicines

The school procedure for the administration of medicines must be followed for everyone's safety.

Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of a school day. Any adult or student, parents, carers and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents will be asked to remove their child from the school and to seek immediate medical support.

Smoking

School premises are a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. Smoking on school premises will result in a Fixed Term Exclusion. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

Illegal drugs and legal highs

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or Drugs Paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of the drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of legal highs either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Solvents

School will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Responses to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:-

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises.
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises.
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises.
- Supply of drugs on school premises.
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use.
- Student reports of parents, staff or students using drugs.
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties).
- Glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances.

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider school community.

Fixed term exclusion from school and permanent exclusion, will both be considered in cases where:

- There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Code of Conduct, Drugs or Behaviour Policies and;

- Allowing a student to remain in Childwall Abbey School would seriously put at risk the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the school.

Members of the SLT and Pastoral Team will be responsible for the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.

Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Chair of Governors by the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Drug Misuse outside the school premises

In line with Behaviour & Discipline in Schools (January 2016) the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- identifiable as a student at the school.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

Individuals in possession of drugs

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug, it will be confiscated, wherever possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed, as soon as possible and not stored by school. Parents and Carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student). Other professionals such as the Local Authority, Young Offenders Service, Police and Social Services will be informed or consulted where appropriate.

Confidentiality

Childwall Abbey School will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate. Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student. If a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, action will be taken to try to ensure the student comes to no harm, if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures, staff will follow the advice given in the Child Protection policy, and at the annual safeguarding training.

Support for students

At our school, the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents/carers. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in school (Mentor, School Nurse, Pastoral Team, Attendance Officer)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support
- Involvement of the Police

Right to Search

Childwall Abbey School reserves the right to search students if there is reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous. Similarly, students can expect to be physically restrained, if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community. (see Behaviour Policy)

If inappropriate items are brought into school, they will be confiscated and kept for collection by Parents/ Carers at the end of the day. Dangerous or illegal items will be given to the Police for safe disposal.

Childwall Abbey School works closely with its Police Liaison Offices. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in the confiscation of items,

Parents and Carers will always be informed if the police are involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews.

Similarly, the police may well be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of legal action, if any, will be taken. The Headteacher and Governing body will make decisions regarding school response.