



SAINT AUGUSTINE'S RC HIGH SCHOOL

SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

Date approved by Governors: November 2023

School Mission Statement

“We act justly, love tenderly and recognise God in our lives.”

Faith and Love

At Saint Augustine’s, we want our young people to act justly, love tenderly and recognise God in their lives. Working with families, we will educate children in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Catholic church.

Our faith is nourished through the Eucharist and we want everyone at Saint Augustine’s to experience the joy of the Gospel in their journey through school and beyond. We will foster in all members of our community a love of God and a love of others as Jesus taught us.

Care and Support

We believe that every person is made and loved by God. This is why we respect each other, value human dignity and consider the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable.

We want our pupils to be safe, happy and successful at school. We will provide an environment that inspires, encourages and supports their development through nurturing their gifts and talents and will instil in them the importance of the common good and the stewardship of creation.

Ambition and Success

We aim to provide pupils with the knowledge, skills and attitudes that they need to be successful at school and in later life.

We will work to fulfil the potential of every member of our school by providing an education that values the whole person and promotes personal and spiritual growth.

Together we will send out our young people to make a difference in our community and in the wider world.

Introduction

This policy has emerged from discussions between staff, parents and governors in collaboration with specialist Lancashire LA advisory staff.

Our school community is determined to protect the young people in our care from intoxicating, harmful and illegal substances which can damage their health, encourage dependency and addiction, may lead to anti-social behaviour and could have potentially tragic consequences.

We will give our pupils the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to make informed and healthy choices about the full range of substances which people consume.

They need to be aware of the risk to their health which could be caused by types of food and amounts consumed through to the dangers posed by tobacco, alcohol and drugs. We want them to be clear about the consequences and the penalties that they will incur if they break the laws of the land.

The school will teach pupils about these matters within the broader context of health, personal and social development, life skills and preparation for adulthood.

We make use of outside agencies, including the police early action team who contribute to school assemblies, the PSHE programme and work with individual pupils.

Underpinning our approach is our commitment to provide support and advice to young people, and where appropriate, their parents, particularly when they are facing problems and concerns where advice and assistance are asked for and needed.

The school rules and sanctions concerning substance use and misuse are communicated to pupils clearly and at regular intervals.

This is how we deal with substance misuse at school

We take note of Government guidance on handling substance misuse.

Pupils are told during appropriate lessons and on other occasions about the risks and sanctions they face for using and misusing substances. We also take into account parents' views on these matters. We do all we can to respond to individual requests for support from parents and carers, including assisting liaison between them and relevant agencies.

Smoking / Vaping

A separate leaflet covering our policy on smoking is available on our website www.sarchs.com or in the school office.

Smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes (vaping), is prohibited on school premises, during school events or trips, or when pupils are travelling to and from school whether or not they are in school uniform.

These are occasions when the school is 'in loco parentis'. (This is a legal term which refers to the right of a school to act as it sees appropriate in the best interests of its pupils). If children are

caught smoking / vaping, are in the presence of smokers, or are identified by other pupils as being involved with smoking, they will be disciplined and their parents will be informed.

When pupils are found with (e-) cigarettes, lighters and other smoking paraphernalia these will be confiscated and destroyed. Pupils caught smoking / vaping are given an afterschool detention for the first offence. Pupils may then be banned from certain areas of our premises, where they have been caught smoking previously. If they are caught on more than one occasion they are likely to be suspended.

The above advice also relates to electronic cigarettes. These will only be returned to parents / carers.

Alcohol

Any pupil in possession of alcohol on school premises, during school events or trips, or when pupils are travelling to and from school, risks being given a fixed term exclusion.

Solvent Misuse

A number of substances can be bought which, while legal, we will not permit pupils to bring into school. These include aerosols, solvent-based glues and other inhalants which may cause intoxication and other serious health problems. Sanctions and confiscation arrangements are similar to those which apply to cigarettes.

Illegal Substances

The school will not tolerate the possession or use of illegal substances, including those formally known as legal highs, on school premises, on school organised events, or while pupils are travelling to or from school. In other words, in any circumstance where the school is in "loco parentis". Pupils are informed on a regular basis of the consequences for breaking these school rules.

Unless there are accepted extenuating circumstances;

- the intentional possession of any illegal substance is likely to lead to a permanent exclusion from school.
- the intentional consumption of any illegal substance is likely to lead to a permanent exclusion from school.
- if a pupil brings an illegal substance into school, and sells or distributes the substance (or it is believed they intend to do so), a permanent exclusion would be inevitable.

This policy extends to the contents of electronic cigarettes. If the content of e-cigarettes / vaping liquid is deemed to be an illegal substance, this is likely to lead to a permanent exclusion.

Medicines

Please refer to our separate policy on medical information, medicines and health care plans at www.sarchs.com.