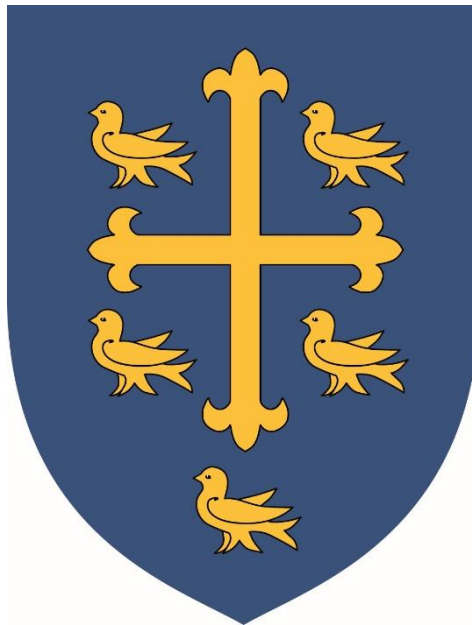


St. Edward's Catholic Primary School



Drug Education Policy 2026/27

'Jesus is at the heart of all that we do'

At St. Edward's, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and adults in our school, and we have the same expectation of our staff and volunteers.

Policy agreed/Signed by: _____
(Mr K Connolly – Chair of Governors)

Date: _____

Agreed on: September 2026

Review date: September 2027 **Review date: September 2027**

SAINT EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

2026-27

At St. Edward's, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and adults in our school, and we have the same expectation of our staff and volunteers.

RATIONALE

St. Edward's Catholic Primary School is committed to supporting pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to make safe, healthy and informed choices. Age-appropriate education about medicines, alcohol, tobacco, nicotine products and other drugs forms part of the school's wider approach to Health Education, PSHE, safeguarding and pupil wellbeing. For the purposes of this policy, the term "drugs" includes medicines, alcohol, tobacco and nicotine products, illegal drugs, volatile substances and other psychoactive substances.

INTRODUCTION

This policy sets out the principles, aims and arrangements for age-appropriate drug education and for managing drug-related incidents at St. Edward's Catholic Primary School.

LEGAL AND GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK

This policy has due regard to relevant statutory and non-statutory guidance, including:

DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026;

DfE and ACPO Drug advice for schools;

DfE statutory guidance for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education;

DfE guidance on PSHE education;

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy,

Relational Behaviour Policy

arrangements for supporting pupils with medical conditions and administering medicines.

PRINCIPLES

- To provide a consistency of approach throughout the school for all aspects of drug education and management of drug related incidents.
- To encourage pupils to develop the knowledge and skills needed to make informed, responsible and safe choices now and in later life, and to understand the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

AIMS

- To express and clarify the school's attitude and approach to staff, pupils and parents.
- To provide pupils with age-appropriate knowledge and skills that help them recognise risk, resist pressure and avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To promote pupils' confidence, resilience and ability to seek help when needed.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Scheme of Work

- Drug education will be delivered through the school's planned, age-appropriate PSHE and statutory Health Education curriculum, including relevant elements of Ten Ten, My Happy Mind, science and the wider curriculum. Teaching will support pupils to develop factual knowledge, recognise risk and make safe and informed choices.

Delivery

- Drug education is delivered through the planned curriculum by appropriately supported staff. A range of age-appropriate teaching approaches may be used, including whole-class teaching, discussion, group work, role-play and other suitable activities. All pupils have an equal entitlement to learning and teaching will be adapted to meet individual needs, including SEND where appropriate.

Resources

- Age-appropriate teaching resources will be selected carefully to ensure they are accurate, inclusive and suitable for the intended learning outcomes. Staff will evaluate resources before use and seek appropriate specialist guidance where necessary. These can include: books, models and videos. In addition, materials may be borrowed from the Health Education Unit.

IT

- Appropriate digital resources may be used to support teaching where these are age appropriate, accurate, inclusive and suitable for the intended learning outcomes. Staff will evaluate resources before use and follow the school's online safety and safeguarding procedures.

PROGRESS AND CONTINUITY

Planning and teaching of drug education will be coordinated across the school to ensure that pupils' experiences are continuous, progressive and age appropriate. The PSHE Coordinator will provide guidance and support to colleagues and disseminate relevant information.

ROLE OF THE PSHE COORDINATOR

The PSHE Coordinator will lead the development and review of drug education and support its coherent integration within the wider curriculum. The Coordinator will support colleagues, disseminate relevant information and oversee the selection and organisation of appropriate resources.

ASSESSMENT

Formative assessment will be used to monitor the effectiveness of teaching and identify what pupils have learned and their next steps. Assessment will be proportionate, age appropriate and undertaken primarily through normal classroom practice.

MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

The immediate safety and welfare of pupils and staff is the priority in any drug-related incident. Each incident will be considered on its individual circumstances, with appropriate regard to safeguarding, behaviour, health and safety and the law. Incidents involving adults on the school site will be managed through the appropriate school procedures.

In the case of a suspected incident:

- Any drug-related incident, suspected drug use, possession or concern must be reported immediately to the Headteacher and/or Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Where the incident raises a safeguarding concern, staff must follow the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and report the concern to the DSL or deputy DSL without delay. Appropriate records will be made of the incident, decisions, actions and outcomes. The Headteacher and DSL will determine appropriate action, including informing parents/carers, and if necessary informing police, children's social care, health professionals or other relevant agencies who may need to be involved.

Where there are concerns that a pupil may be affected by their own or another person's substance misuse, the school will consider the pupil's safeguarding and pastoral needs and provide or seek appropriate support. The DSL will consider whether early help, Family Help or a referral to another relevant service is appropriate. Any searching, screening or confiscation associated with a suspected drug-related incident will be undertaken in accordance with current DfE guidance and the school's Relational Behaviour Policy. Staff must not undertake actions outside their authority or training.

PARENTS

The school recognises that parents/carers play an important role in supporting pupils to develop healthy, safe and informed behaviours. Where appropriate, parents/carers will be informed about and supported to

understand the school's approach to drug education and will be involved in responding to individual incidents, unless doing so would place a pupil at risk or conflict with safeguarding advice.

STAFF TRAINING

Staff will receive appropriate information, training and updates relevant to their responsibilities for drug education, managing incidents and safeguarding. Training and professional development will be reviewed as appropriate.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the school and governing body, or earlier following changes to legislation, statutory guidance, local procedures or the needs of the school. The next scheduled review is September 2027.