



Our Mission Statement – the reason our College exists

“Learning & Growing in the Light of the Gospel”

With Christ at the centre of our learning, we:

- *Help young people to achieve their greatest potential*
- *Guide their intellectual growth, nurture their God-given talents, and inspire them to live in service to others*
- *Aim to develop honest, confident, responsible and compassionate members of society, based on the educational values of Blessed Antonio Rosmini*

Our Vision Statement – the long-term change resulting from our work

‘Encouraging Big Ideas’

Ratcliffe’s unique educational offering based on our College motto, “Legis Plenitudo Charitas”, Love is the fulfilment of the Law, provides a perfect context within which young people may acquire the emotional knowledge and interpersonal skills necessary to live happy and purposeful lives. The College’s inclusive Catholic ethos is complemented by the outstanding quality of our College community through which our Mission, “Learning and Growing in the Light of the Gospel”, serves to nurture resilience and develop maturity. Young people leave Ratcliffe with a strong sense of who they are and their purpose in the world, equipped socially, emotionally, morally and spiritually to go forth and make a difference to the communities in which they live and work.

DRUGS POLICY

This policy has been written for all three sections of the School

Author: James Rainer/Jonathan Reddin	Receiver: All staff
Review Date: August 2024	Next Review: September 2025

Signed	(Chair of Governors)
Signed	(Headmaster)
Signed	(Deputy Head (Pastoral))

Terminology

In this policy, the term 'drugs' refers to controlled drugs and substances, illegal drugs, and substances, including but not limited to nicotine, alcohol, psychoactive substances, known as legal highs or synthetic drugs (including those which are designated as controlled under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016), cannabis, including any products containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) such as vape pods, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, LSD or amphetamines or substances intended to resemble drugs or their effects. In the appropriate context it also refers to anabolic steroids, legal drugs obtainable on or off prescription, and/or all other substances that, when misused, may damage the health, safety, and welfare of a student or any member of our school community, including but not limited to solvents, vapes, snus, alcohol and tobacco. However, the School has separate policies about solvents, alcohol and nicotine/tobacco and they are not, therefore, the focus of this policy.

Involvement with drugs includes the possession, use, supplying and dealing with drugs or the paraphernalia of drugs.

To view the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 including solvents click [here](#)

- Possession means any items over which the student has or appears to have control - this includes clothing, desks, lockers, and bags.
- Supply means providing or sharing (whether or not for money or other consideration) or facilitation of supply e.g. sale, exchange or sharing. It also includes the promotion / advertisement of supply, including on social media or by electronic means.
- Use means the taking / consumption of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or substances.
- Misuse means the unauthorised taking / consumption of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or substance through which harm could occur and / or is in breach of the school rules and / or the law.

The drugs policy at Ratcliffe College reflects the aims of the School's Mission Statement, in that it seeks to educate young people and to nurture their God-given talents and potential so that each one may become a confident, responsible, and useful member of society. It also seeks to

send a clear moral message to students that drugs are dangerous and involvement with drugs is wrong.

The School considers that the use of drugs (other than those administered under the care of our Medical Department) is likely to undermine a student's health, safety, independence, opportunities and respect for the law. The use of drugs will also damage the integrity of the school community by exposing other students to temptation and to the risk of harm and criminal proceedings. We strongly and actively discourage the use of drugs and a drugs 'culture'.

A continuing and progressive programme of education about drugs is maintained throughout the school, both as part of the PSHCE programme and as part of the academic curriculum. The drugs education programme (see Appendix 1) also provides students with information about drugs, including their effects and dangers, and details of the law concerning drugs.

Application

This policy applies to all students at the School and at all times when a student is:

- in or at School;
- representing the School or wearing School uniform;
- travelling to or from School;
- on School-organised trips;
- associated with the School at any time.

This policy shall also apply to students at all times and in all places in circumstances where failing to apply this policy may:

- affect the health, safety or well-being of a member of the School community or a member of the public;
- have repercussions for the orderly running of the School; or
- bring the School into disrepute.

It may therefore apply to parties outside of the school or conducted in the holidays. It may also apply to a student's use of social media or electronic communication such as the sharing of details of supply or posting evidence of drug use.

A student suspected to have supplied or used or been in possession of drugs whether on School site or not, should expect to be required to leave the School immediately. The College may suspend as a neutral act pending investigation. Breach of the Drugs Policy is likely to lead to a permanent exclusion, in accordance with the Exclusion Policy and the Positive Behaviour and Relationships Policy (Senior School).

Aims

- To reinforce and safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of each student and of the School community.
- To ensure legal compliance where it is unlawful for any person to possess, use, supply or sell controlled drugs.

- To provide students with accurate information about drugs and other harmful substances and to make them aware of the consequences of misuse.
- To promote a healthy lifestyle through informed judgements
- To help develop the moral courage to reject peer group pressures which may lead to experimentation with, and thereby use of, drugs.
- To actively discourage the use of drugs and to treat cases of drugs usage by students as serious misconduct which will be investigated and which, if proven, will result in serious sanctions being imposed.
- To ensure that all staff, both teaching and support staff, are fully aware of the School's policy towards drugs and that they have received appropriate training and guidance to help them to implement the policy in a consistent manner.

Responsibilities

Deputy Head Pastoral – draws up, implements and reviews the drugs policy, along with the Headmaster, and ensures that staff are aware of the content of the policy.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) Co-ordinator – draws up, implements and reviews the drugs education programme to respond to the needs of students and external influences.

Heads of Year and Housemaster/Housemistress – ensure that the drugs policy is appropriately known to students.

Form Tutors & Class Teachers – deliver the school's drugs education programme through the PSHCE curriculum and give feedback to the PSHCE co-ordinator about the effectiveness of the programme.

Heads of Department – ensure that, within their departments, appropriate opportunities are taken to reinforce the School's policy on drugs and to deliver the appropriate drugs education, as detailed in the drugs education programme.

Subject Teachers – deliver the appropriate drugs education in the classroom.

Medical Staff – support and advise staff and students by providing appropriate up to date information about medical issues relating to drugs.

All Staff – Drugs prevention and education are whole school issues. All staff, both teaching and support, must be aware of the School's policy and how it relates to them should they have to deal with a drugs related incident. The staff must be committed to putting into practice the aims of the School's Mission Statement.

Implementation

- All students in the School receive a progressive and age-appropriate programme of drugs education. This is delivered through the PSHCE programme and through academic subjects where appropriate. The details of the drugs education programme are contained in Appendix 1.
- The School is vigilant with regard to drugs related issues, which includes teaching and support staff being alert to warning signs of drugs or other abuse. Teaching staff receive training, intermittently, to help them recognise evidence of drugs abuse and to deal with drugs related issues should they arise.
- If any suspicion of drugs use arises, it is reported immediately to the Headmaster who decides if further investigation is warranted. If it is confirmed that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student may have been using drugs or is otherwise in

breach of this policy, further investigations are conducted, which may require a student to take a drugs test should it be considered necessary, at the parents' cost.

- The School reserves the right to request testing for drugs if appropriate. If a student or his/her parent/s refuses to consent to a test, the School is able to draw inferences as may be appropriate in the circumstances and which may result in the student being required to leave the School. The details of the drugs testing procedure are contained in Appendix 2.
- The school reserves the right to investigate any reported allegations of drug use by a student outside of School. **If upon further investigation the School finds that a student has supplied or used or been in possession of drugs, in accordance with the policy, that student should expect to be required to leave the School immediately.** The College may suspend as a neutral act pending investigation. Breach of the Drugs Policy is likely to lead to a permanent exclusion, in accordance with the Exclusion Policy and the Positive Behaviour and Relationships Policy (Senior School).
- If, during the implementation of this policy, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or one of their Deputies) finds evidence that a student or students are at risk of harm, they should make a referral to the children's social care services immediately, as set out in Part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education and in accordance with the School's Safeguarding Policy. They should then consider the circumstances of the student who has undertaken a drugs test to assess the incident against potential wider safeguarding concerns.

Monitoring

This Policy is monitored by the Deputy Head Pastoral through liaison with the Headmaster, Head of Preparatory School and Head of Nursery who are responsible for education about keeping safe, medicines and, in Year 6, drugs education.

In the Senior School, the Deputy Head Pastoral monitors the policy through discussions with key post holders (particularly the PSHCE Co-ordinator, Heads of Year, Housemaster/Housemistress and the Medical Department), in addition to visits to tutorial time, PSHCE lessons and feedback from staff, parents and students.

Links to other policies

Boarding Policy

Curriculum Policy

Exclusions Policy

Equal Opportunities Policy

Pastoral Care Policy

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education Policy

Positive Behaviour and Relationships Policy

Psychoactive Substance Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Appendix 1 – Drugs Education Programme

Whole School

The School's drugs policy and education programme reflect the aims of the School's Mission Statement and are reinforced through assemblies, PSHCE, tutor time, student handbooks and through the way we live as a school community. We send a clear and consistent moral message to students that drugs are dangerous and involvement with drugs is wrong.

Preparatory School

By the end of their years in the Preparatory School, pupils will have been taught about the effects on the human body of nicotine, alcohol and other drugs, and how these relate to their personal health. This is delivered through discrete PSHCE lessons that take place fortnightly, in different Year groups and through cross-curricular links. The current topics are:

EYFS

EYFS.2.4.1 - Safe Inside and Out

About safe and unsafe situations indoors and outdoors including safe use of household products.

EYFS.2.4.3 - Feeling Poorly

Medicines should only be taken when a parent or doctor gives them to us.

Medicines are not sweets.

We should always try to look after our bodies because God created them and gifted them to us.

Key Stage 1

KS1.2.4.3 - Harmful Substances

Medicines are drugs, but not all drugs are good for us.

Alcohol and tobacco are harmful substances.

Our bodies are created by God, so we should take care of them and be careful about what we consume.

Lower Key Stage 2

LKS2.1.2.2 - Respecting Our Bodies

About the need to respect and look after their bodies as a gift from God through what they wear, what they eat and what they physically do

LKS2.2.4.2 - Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

Medicines are drugs, but not all drugs are good for us including the importance of taking medicines correctly and using household products safely, (e.g. following instructions carefully). Alcohol and tobacco are harmful substances including the risks and effects of legal drugs common to everyday life (e.g. cigarettes, e-cigarettes/vaping, alcohol and medicines) and their impact on health; recognise that drug use can become a habit which can be difficult to break.

Legal and illegal drugs.

Our bodies are created by God, so we should take care of them and be careful about what we consume.

Upper Key Stage 2

UKS2 2.4.2 - Impacted Lifestyles

Understand the effect that a range of substances including drugs, tobacco and alcohol can have on the body.

Learn how to make good choices about substances that will have a positive impact on their health.

Laws about drugs. Mixed messages in media about drugs. Organisations to support legal/illegal drug use.

Know that our bodies are created by God, so we should take care of them and be careful about what we consume.

UKS2 2.4.3 - Making Good Choices

Recognise how they may come under pressure when it comes to drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

Learn that they are entitled to say “no” for all sorts of reasons, but not least in order to protect their God-given bodies.

Senior School: Drugs education is delivered through both the PSHCE programme and through aspects of the academic curriculum, some of which are compulsory and some of which depend on subjects chosen. Much of the information currently delivered through the PSHCE sessions is by visiting speakers or the Medical Department. These sessions are then followed up by Form Tutors during subsequent PSHCE lessons.

Year 7

PSHCE: Health Inside and Out tutor-led session

Year 8

PSHCE: Alcohol, Drugs, Energy Drinks & Vaping tutor-led session; Drugs Misuse tutor-led session; Habits and Dependency tutor-led session

Year 9

PSHCE: Substance Misuse and Gangs tutor-led session; Peer Influences tutor-led session

Science: Study of different types of drugs and the impact they have on the body; study of how addictions develop and how to tell if a friend is addicted (one Science module, of 2-3 lessons, delivered to all classes).

Years 10/11

PSHCE: My Physical Health – Sleep and Vaping tutor-led session

GCSE PE: Study of different types of drugs used in sport, including performance enhancing drugs and their effects; study of the effects of alcohol and tobacco on the body; study of the advantages and disadvantages of sponsorship in sport by companies involved with alcohol and tobacco.

Science: Study of the harmful effects of solvents on the lungs and neurones; study of alcohol on reaction times, behaviour, liver and brain; study of smoking tobacco on the occurrence of bronchitis, emphysema, lung cancer and addiction to nicotine.

Evaluation of the use and misuse of drugs, including antibiotics, pain killers, stimulants, sedatives and the dangers of contracting HIV and hepatitis by the use of intravenous drugs (one Science module, of 2-3 lessons, delivered to both dual award and triple award Science classes).

Religious Studies: A unit is taught on crime and punishment, including moral responsibility.

Years 12/13

PSHCE: A regular cycle of speakers and tutor-led sessions review the impact of substance misuse and addiction. In 2024/25, the Sixth Form will be visited by two external speakers giving talks on the topic of 'Finding Hope in Dark Places' and the 'Hard Time Talk'.

Languages: The topic is introduced by discussing smoking and alcohol, and drugs and addictions. Discussions are held about drug taking in sport; about the perceived differences between soft and hard drugs and the legalisation issues; about the effects of addiction on health, jobs and friends, as well as the links with illness (AIDS).

Sports Science: Similar topics are taught as per GCSE PE, but also including blood doping, altitude training and the use of ergogenic aids to enhance performance.

Religious Studies: A unit is taught on the link between the law and morality.

Appendix 2 – Drugs Testing Procedure

The decision to authorise a drugs test is made by the Headmaster. The test involves a urine, saliva or sweat sample being taken. Once authorisation has been given, every effort is made to inform the student's parents. However, it is important that the test is carried out within 48 hours, so there may be occasions when it is not possible to contact parents.

The relevant consent to a test is that of the pupil, rather than their parent(s), provided that they are of sufficient maturity and understanding and give their informed consent in writing. Where the pupil is not deemed to have sufficient maturity or understanding or to be fit to give informed consent themselves, then consent will be sought from a parent.

The student is accompanied by a senior member of staff, of the same gender as the student, to the Medical Centre. The senior member of staff acts as Test Supervisor. The student remains under supervision until a sample has been provided. The student may also have a member of staff present to act as his/her advocate and supporter. All due care will be taken to respect the student's privacy and human rights during the collection process.

The Test Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the samples are collected in such a way as to minimise the chance of contamination, dilution or substitution of the sample, for ensuring that sample identification is foolproof and that records and security systems are completed, and that the sample is transmitted to the laboratory.

The School uses the Regional Laboratory for Toxicology at the City Hospital NHS Trust, Birmingham, to process urine samples. The Nursing Sister on duty acts as the Collecting Officer and all samples are collected according to the guidelines from the Regional Laboratory for Toxicology. Details of these guidelines are available to parents on request, via the Deputy Head Pastoral. All costs associated with having a drugs test will be charged to the student's parents via their School account.

Please click here to view the [searching screening and confiscation](#) guidance from the DfE, July 2022.

Review

This Policy is reviewed annually by the Headmaster and Deputy Head Pastoral.