

St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Drugs and Alcohol Policy



Policy	Drugs and alcohol policy
Date	December 2025
Date of review	December 2027
Signed Chair of Governors	<i>Christine Murray</i>
Signed Headteacher	<i>Clare Scott</i>

We, the family of St Peter's, united in faith by God strive to love, learn and grow together.

School Statement:
Procedures for Managing Drug Related Incidents
Primary and Secondary Schools

Peters Catholic Primary School
Date of School Statement: 10.12.25
Date of Next Review: 10.12.27

Reference to ‘drugs’: in the context of this document the term ‘drugs’ is inclusive of alcohol, tobacco, vaping, illegal drugs, medicines and other substances such as solvents.

Links to other school policies: read this statement in conjunction with the following policies

- Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy
- PSHE/RSHE Policy, including our Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping Education
- Behaviour Policy
- Medicines Policy

Our approach: we respond to all drugs related incidents in line with the following statutory guidance and departmental advice (update links for most current documents);

- [DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2025\)](#)
- [DfE and Association of Chief Police Officers \(ACPO\) Drug Advice for Schools: \(2012\)](#)
- [DfE Guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation \(2022\)](#)

We take a positive, proactive approach to supporting our pupils through a comprehensive drugs, alcohol, tobacco and vaping education, as part of our planned PSHE programme, in line with [DfE Statutory Relationships, RSE \(Secondary\) and Health Education \(2025\)](#)

We consider every drug related situation individually. Our priority is to maintain the health and wellbeing needs of the school community whilst ensuring that the needs and circumstances of any involved student is paramount.

If the situation leads to a medical emergency the school emergency aid procedures will be followed and emergency services called immediately

If a pupil is suspected of being involved in substance misuse, is causing concern about his/her substance use, or makes a disclosure about their own or their family’s substance misuse, the Head Teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will make an assessment of the extent of the drug misuse. Following this assessment, action will be taken to safeguard the pupil and, if appropriate, refer the pupil for further support. We accept that it is never appropriate to respond to a drug related incident in a way that is more punitive than that which might be considered by the police, and therefore exclusion, whilst it remains an option, will be used as the very last resort.

Opportunities for supporting students following drug related situations include:

- **Review with parents/carers** after the incident:
unless there are exceptional circumstances we will inform parents /carers at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together to support the student and to resolve difficulties.
- **Referral to an outside agency:**
Including our local Police Youth Crime Reduction Officer/Local Police Youth Team, Early Help Team/Social Services, Local Drug Intervention and Support Team
- **Targeted support** on a one-to-one basis:
we will work with the student, their parents or carers and colleagues from other agencies to provide relevant support and resolve any difficulties that exist.
- **Further Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping Education:**
we acknowledge the essential link between drugs incidents and delivering a quality Drugs

Education curriculum, in line with DfE statutory guidance [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education\(2025\)](#) to equip pupils with knowledge, attitudes and skills to make informed choices about drugs and be able to access sources of support (refer to our PSHE policy)

Drug related situations involving adults: it is made clear to all staff that they must not consume alcohol or any other substance before coming onto the premises or whilst they are on the school site. Any breaches of this will be dealt with via our Staff Code of Conduct, including any disciplinary procedures. The provision of relevant support and/or signposting to local services will remain a priority where appropriate. If a parent/carer or other visiting adult is deemed to be under the influence of any substance on school site they will be asked to leave and the matter referred to the Head Teacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Safeguarding procedures will be followed to maintain their child's safety at all times. If it is suspected that a parent/carer has driven, or will drive, whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the member of staff will report this to the head teacher or DSL who may contact the police.

A Smoke and Vape Free Site: smoking and vaping are not allowed anywhere on the school site. Further vaping guidance for schools can be found [here](#)

Managing Medicines on the School Site – some pupils may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. More detailed information can be found in [Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings](#)

Training for School Staff: all staff receive training for managing drug related incidents as part of their annual safeguarding training, including review of this procedural statement and other related policies. Designated staff who lead on this area, including responding to incidents and/or managing and administering medicines on school site, will receive annual/bi-annual CPD to enhance their knowledge, understanding and skills.

Disseminating this statement: a copy of this statement is supplied to all staff and governors and is made freely available to parents on request

List of Useful Organisations for Signposting/Referrals

<https://www.changegrowlive.org/service/barking-dagenham-st-lukes/info>

<https://www.nhs.uk/services/service-directory/cgl-st-luke-s-service-dagenham/N10870633>