



De La Salle School

Drug Policy

De La Salle School is a Christian community, inspired by the vision and example of Saint John Baptist De La Salle, where each person is invited to become the person God intended him or her to be and to live a life of faith and love, following the example of Christ.

Last Update: March 2024

Ratified by Governors: 21 March 2024

Next Review: March 2027

Mission Statement

De La Salle School aims to inform and educate the students at De La Salle School in terms of use and abuse of both legal and illegal substances.

The adults that share the De La Salle community are committed to protect all the young people in their care and to support the authorities in their duty of care.

De La Salle School does not condone the misuse of drugs or alcohol by any members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances.

Aims and Objectives

To help students to acquire attitudes and skills relevant to their juvenile and adult life, their working life and to be able to adapt confidently, to the changing demands of changing society.

To enable students to make healthy, sound and informed choices.

To provide a clear framework for all staff for dealing with incidents of substance possession and use in school community.

Curriculum Aims and Objectives

See Personal, Social, Health and Moral Education policy.

Information and Education

The curriculum will include accurate and factual information about the main identified drugs, both legal and illegal, in terms of their correct nomenclature and unbiased information about the physical and psychological effects on the body.

Information will be shared on the effects of drug use and abuse on the family, the community and society in general.

The role of the law in protecting individuals and society from the use and abuse of both legal and illegal substances and the consequences of personal involvement.

Information about the recognition of both substances and the effects of their use will be shared with all the adults in the community and with parents, and specifically those parents where the school is sharing its concerns.

Protection and Prevention

The education of all in the community will be focused on protecting the individual from harm or abuse by imparting knowledge of the risks and dangers.

All the school community has an obligation to share collected information about the presence and or use of substances on the school property.

Actions and Discipline

Although each incident is to be considered individually, and it is recognised that a variety of responses will be required to deal with different incidents, there are certain minimum requirements related to specific situations that may occur.

- The possession, sale and or use of cigarettes or vapes by students are the responsibility of the Senior Managers and the Headteacher and actions taken will be at their discretion and can include the appropriate and impartial use of suspension.
- The possession, sale and or use of alcohol or solvents, are the responsibility of the Senior Managers and the Headteacher and actions taken will be at their discretion and can include the appropriate and impartial use of extended suspension.
- The possession, sale and or use of illegal substances are the responsibility of the Senior Managers and the Headteacher to investigate in the presence of another adult in the community. In the case of finding illegal substances the student will be isolated until a parent or appropriate nominated adult is available to take care and control. If the students are observed to be under the influence, that an appropriate referral is to be made to the medical agencies.
- If any student or any other person is found supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug the Head must be informed immediately. He will inform the police, the Area Office, The Chair of Governors and the parents.
- All substances giving rise to suspicion will be labelled and placed in the school safe clearly labelled until collected by the Police. All details of the student/s and the incident and all information obtained from the specific student's or other parties will be recorded and made available within 24 hours to the Police.
- All members of the community must be made aware that the possession, use or selling (in legal terms 'dealing') of illegal substances regardless of quantity, will be viewed in terms of sufficient seriousness for a permanent exclusion to be the considered recommendation of the Headteacher.
- Where appropriate the Headteacher will use the Governor Guidance Panel to focus both students and parents on the risks and concerns of the school about substance use. This body will in turn recommend school actions and appropriate targets for both the student and parent/s or carer to facilitate the students reintegration into the school.

Any such meeting is recommended to take place within 10 days of the incident and should where possible be prior to the students return.

The actions of a student are the concern of the parents in partnership with the school and as such any significant, known involvement by a student with illegal substances will be shared.

Support for the individual student identified as 'in need'.

- The school's Police Liaison officer or Police representative will be involved in the planning for the GGP and will be invited to attend any such meeting.
- The school will use all the appropriate services available to support and protect the student/s. This can include the involvement of a school nominated mentor, the School Counsellor, a 'drug counsellor', the Youth Offenders team and Social Services.
- An Individual Education Plan should be completed for the student at risk clearly identifying the agencies, actions and appropriate timelines. This will be arranged and monitored by a Senior member of staff where the incident involves illegal substances.

Practice and Procedures

Roles of responsibility.

The Headteacher

The head takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governors, parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies.

The Head is responsible for the appointment of a member of staff with responsibility for the curriculum aspects of the policy.

The Head will ensure that all staff dealing with substance abuse issues are adequately trained and supported.

The staff are to be aware of the boundaries of 'confidentiality' in terms of the protection of the young person.

Staff will need to be sensitive to the needs of young people to discuss concerns and seek advice and support. In doing so the students may confess to some drug involvement. This may require referral to the Head depending on the seriousness of the information and the location of the involvement.

In all cases where drug misuse is known to have occurred on the school premises (or on a school journey) the facts must be reported to the Head.

Response to specific incidents- summary

No student may smoke on the school premises, on journeys to or from school or on school visits.

If a student is known to smoke excessively this is to be reported to a Senior member of staff and will be communicated to the parents.

In each of the following cases the incident will be reported to the Head who will take the required action.

- Alcohol, cigarettes or tobacco found on the school property will be confiscated. The parents will be informed and given the opportunity to redeem such items.
- Solvents will be similarly confiscated and the parents informed.
- If a student is found drunk on the school premises, the parents will be informed immediately and requested to remove the student.
- If any student is found 'intoxicated' through solvent abuse or the use of drugs, medical attention should be given and the parents contacted immediately.

Liaison with the media

The responsibility for liaison with the media will rest with the Head and Deputy Heads. Individual Governors if they are approached, are advised to refer the press to the Chairman. The County Press Office and if required the Legal Department, will be approached to liaise with the school to provide guidance to ensure that reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the student, their family and the school.

Links with parents and the community.

Names, addresses and telephone numbers of the helping agencies are to be clearly displayed in the school.

Information packs are to be available to supported involved parents and others are requested. The Education Welfare Officer and Social services will be informed if a student is felt to be at risk (See Child Protection Policy).