



St John's
School Billericay

Alcohol, Smoking, Drugs & Substance Abuse Policy

Date: September 2026
Those Responsible: Mrs A Fleming - Deputy Headteacher

To be reviewed: September 2027

Introduction

St John's School disapproves of both the misuse of smoking, drugs and alcohol and the illegal supply of these substances. This applies to all members of the school community including pupils and staff.

Policy Aims

We believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance abuse and misuse.

1. To provide accurate information about substances.
2. To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
3. To widen understanding about related health and social issues.

These aims will be fulfilled through the taught curriculum (e.g. in the PSHE programme) and through co-operation with other agencies such as police, agencies and the local authority to deliver our commitment to smoking, drugs and alcohol education and to deal with any incident of substance use and misuse.

In instances involving substance misuse or supply the school will follow the procedure outlined below.

Procedures

The Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher will be informed immediately, who will ensure that the parents are informed at the earliest opportunity.

It is the policy that while on school property, on school residential trips, on day trips and organised occasions such as sporting functions, whilst travelling to and from venues, or when wearing school uniform, pupils are not permitted to:

- buy, possess or smoke cigarettes of any kind (including e-cigarettes or vapes)
- buy, possess or consume alcohol
- show any signs of intoxication
- deliberately inhale solvents
- possess, supply or use any drug-related equipment such as syringes 'bongs' and pipes
- possess, supply, use or be under the influence of illicit drugs
- be under the influence of medicines, except as part of a prescribed medical regime

Procedures for staff

No person either on or immediately before official St John's School or business when students are involved shall be permitted to drink alcohol or be under the influence of drugs.

Where the activity is a social function either on School premises or at an agreed venue organised by the Headteacher, alcohol may only be consumed by employees in moderation as defined in this policy and staff should be mindful of problems associated with drinking.

Drugs

The school will not allow its premises to be used for the production, supply or taking of any controlled drug, including cannabis. The school takes this very seriously and any involvement in bringing drugs into school will lead to a serious sanction.

Trafficking, possessing or supplying illicit drugs, whether in or out of school, will most likely result in permanent exclusion from the school and the offender will be reported to the police. A pupil involved in drug misuse must expect a serious sanction which will most likely be a permanent exclusion. In all cases the school reserves the right, in its absolute discretion, to temporarily or permanently exclude any pupil forthwith. In a case where a pupil has not directly been caught in possession of or using an illicit drug and who is exhibiting symptoms of drug use, parents will be contacted and strongly encouraged to have their child tested. Sanctions may apply as a result.

Smoking

The school strongly disapproves of smoking and vaping. Pupils found smoking or in the company of a pupils smoking in the school grounds, buildings, or in the local vicinity, or when wearing school uniform will be seen by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, their parents informed, and a serious sanction administered. In all cases the school reserves the right, in its absolute discretion, to temporarily or permanently exclude any pupil forthwith.

Alcohol

The school also strongly disapproves of pupils consuming alcohol on the premises or returning to/arriving at school having consumed alcohol elsewhere.

Pupils found in possession of alcohol, or who are considered to have recently consumed alcohol, or who are in the company of pupils who have done so, will be seen by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher, their parents informed and a serious sanction administered. In all cases the school reserves the right, in its absolute discretion, to temporarily or permanently exclude any pupil forthwith

In all cases, parents will be informed. Counselling or referral to an outside agency may be required and the student is likely to forfeit any positions of responsibility held.