Policy Document:	DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE
School's Lead Member of Staff:	HEADTEACHER
Governors (monitoring):	FULL GOVERNORS
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Safeguarding Governor Signature:

DRUGS POLICY

AIMS OF DRUG EDUCATION

Christian Fellowship School believes that drug education is a learning entitlement of all students and an integral part of each student's emergence into adulthood. As a Christian school, we accept and respect all members of our community as unique children of God, precious in His sight and of infinite worth.

As a school, we aim to:
• provide accurate information about legal and illegal substances
• increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse
• enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills

The aim of this policy is to clearly communicate to staff, students, parents and visitors
• the manner in which drug education will be delivered
• the disciplinary procedure that will be imposed should a student become involved in legal and illegal drug misuse
• the support network available

Other school policies with relevance to the Drug Education Policy are:
• Equal Opportunities
• Child Protection/Safeguarding
• Behaviour
• Anti-Bullying
• Health and Safety

Glossary:
Where the term "drugs" is used, the term refers to all legal (including substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and other drugs sold over the counter or provided on prescription, including legal highs) and illegal substances.

DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Students will be encouraged to consider the importance of the following morals and values, in keeping with CFS ethos
• respect and valuing themselves and others
• understanding and sensitivity towards the needs and views of others
• responsibility for their own actions
• responsibility to their family, the school and the wider community

ORGANISATION OF THE PROGRAMME:

Drugs education is jointly covered during assemblies, PSME, in Science, RS lessons and other lessons as relevant.
Delivery is through planned aspects within the Science, PSME and parts of the RS syllabus at age appropriate times, as recorded in the Safeguarding Curriculum Map. A variety of teaching approaches are used to:
• provide students with relevant information
• enable attitudes to be explored through discussion

• acquire appropriate skills
• enable pupils to hear from outside speakers, including the police

CONFIDENTIALITY
Students will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidential, and will be helped to understand that if certain disclosures are made, action will ensue to ensure appropriate safeguarding of the child. This will be for the benefit of the student/s involved and the wider school community.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL PRODUCTS AND LEGAL HIGHS
The school adheres to and enforces the Local Authority no smoking policy, this includes e-cigarettes. The imbibing and/or possession of alcohol on school premises, on school activities or on the way to or from school whilst in school uniform is considered a serious offence and will be subject to the school's disciplinary procedures.

FIRST AID RESPONSE FOR ANY DRUG OR SUBSTANCE MISUSE
CFS staff will receive training on recognising signs of drug abuse, including psychosis, and on how to protect the affected child and the rest of the children in the group.

Guidance: If a child starts to behave in an unusual way, staff should be aware that paranoid delusions, suspiciousness and a sense of grandiosity could be a symptom of drug-induced psychosis and should consider this as a possibility; other symptoms include hallucinations, dissociation, disorganised and disturbed thoughts and speech. If a member of staff thinks that a child's unusual behaviour or speech could be drug-induced, they should try to ascertain what substance they may have taken, in order to advise any medical professionals. Regardless of the cause of the disturbed behaviour, the welfare of the affected child and the other children in the group should be the top priority. A member of staff should be assigned to stay constantly with the child, ensuring that they are not in a position to harm themselves, others or other people's property, preferably keeping them at a distance from other children who might be disturbed by their behaviour. Medical help and advice should be sought at the earliest opportunity, and parents should be informed whether by phone or in person. Similarly, if the child has taken a sedative, the type of sedative should be ascertained if possible and the child should be kept under staff supervision in a safe place while medical advice is sought.

INCIDENTS INVOLVING LEGAL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS WITHIN SCHOOL & ON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

WELFARE OF THE CHILD
CFS will hold as a priority our commitment to the welfare of the child within any response to drug or substance misuse. A young person may have committed an offence, but keeping them and other children from safe and protected from undue anxiety, must be the overriding concern

In line with the findings of the serious case review in March 2022, staff will remember that the welfare and safeguarding of young person is the priority, and will not adopt an overly-deferential attitude to the police or other outside agencies which may be detrimental to the welfare of the young person. Finding of the review stated that: ***'School staff had an insufficient focus on the safeguarding needs of … when responding to concerns about suspected drug use.'*** The review states that Child Q was seen as being **'the risk'** as opposed to being **'at risk'**.... The focus of both incidents appeared to be whether Child Q had **breached the school rules** rather than what alleged substance misuse might mean for their **safety and welfare**. As a result, the review recommends that where any suspicion of harm arises by way of concerns for potential or actual substance misuse, a

safeguarding response is paramount. Practitioners should always contact Children's Social Care to make a referral or seek further advice in such circumstances.'

INVOLVEMENT OF POLICE

CFS will follow NPCC guidance on when to call the police:
https://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/Children%20and%20Young%20people/When%20to%20call%20police%20guidance%20for%20schools%20and%20colleges.pdf
If police attend the school or a school trip following an incident related to illegal drugs, the staff member in charge will ensure that an appropriate adult is present at all times with the child/ren involved.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The school recognises the need for a progressive response to any drug related incident and will handle each case individually. The safety and protection of any children involved, or present as by-standers, will be central to any response by the school. We recognise that the future of the students involved could be affected by the decision and subsequent action employed.
With this in mind, disciplinary procedures within the Behaviour and Discipline Policy will be referred to. All incidents will be recorded as safeguarding incidents and appropriate follow up action will be taken, including referral to Local Authority Children's Services where appropriate.

In the event of a drug incident in school the following procedure shall be followed as recommended by the LA:

• contact the appropriate member of staff (DSL) to liaise on the school's behalf with the police if appropriate
• provide advice
• pass any substances found to the Police/talk to students' parents if necessary
• ensure an appropriate adult is present for any interactions between students and outside agencies, including the police
• arrange counselling support or mentoring as deemed appropriate.

POSSIBLE SANCTIONS

Pupils found to have used or be in possession of legal or illegal substances may be subject to the following sanctions:
• Completion of a reflection sheet
• Fixed term exclusion
• Permanent exclusion
• Referral to Police

INCIDENTS OF DRUG POSSESSION OUTSIDE SCHOOL

Educational Visits and Field Trips of ONE DAY duration

Where a student is found in possession of illegal drugs/legal highs or suspected illegal drugs or legal highs during a visit or field trip, the following procedures would be adopted:
• immediate confiscation of the substance found
• contact Safer Schools Police Officer
• seek medical advice and present substance
• ensure an appropriate adult is present for any interactions between student and the police
• school informed as soon as practicable and parents subsequently informed
• student to be kept with a member of staff for the rest of the day
• parents to collect student on return from visit or from field trip if possible

• the school's drug policy and behaviour policy to be activated on the student's return

Educational Visits or School Holidays of MORE THAN ONE DAY'S duration abroad
• Immediate confiscation
• Contact Safer Schools Police Officer
• Seek medical advice and present substance
• ensure an appropriate adult is present for any interactions between student and the police
• In the presence of another member of staff, secure substance until expert advice is gained
• Inform School as soon as practicable – School will inform parents
• Student/s to be kept with a member of staff for the rest of the visit or holiday where practicable
• Parents to collect the student on return from the visit or holiday
• The school's drug policy and behaviour policy to be activated on the student's return

Educational Visits or School Holidays of MORE THAN ONE DAY'S duration in the UK
• Immediate confiscation
• Contact Safer Schools Police Officer
• Seek medical advice and present substance
• ensure an appropriate adult is present for any interactions between student and the police
• Inform School as soon as practicable – School will inform parents
• Student/s to be kept with a member of staff for the rest of the visit or holiday where practicable
• Parents to collect the student on return from the visit or holiday
• The school's drug policy and behaviour policy to be activated on the student's return

Searches and confiscation
Searches will only be carried out in line with school policy and with guidance provided by the Department for Education (see below). Children themselves may not be searched without an appropriate adult present.

Risk Assessments
If incidents of drug misuse occur, a risk assessment may be used to mitigate against any future risk to the child, their peer group, or to other children in the school.

The Drug Policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher. When necessary, an incident report will be submitted to Governors and a nominated Governor will have a link role between school and the Governing Body. This will usually be the safeguarding governor.

This policy should be read and considered in conjunction with “Searching, screening and confiscation: Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies” (DfE July 2022) **https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091132/Searching__Screening_and_Confiscation_guidance_July_2022.pdf**