



JOINT PARISH YOUTH CLUB

Drugs and Substance Use Policy

Introduction

Joint Parish Youth Club is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and positive environment for young people, staff, and volunteers. This policy sets out our approach to drug and substance misuse within all youth activities, venues, and events.

Purpose & Scope

- To ensure clarity on expectations around drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and mood-altering substances.
- To provide safe and consistent procedures for suspected misuse, possession, or supply.
- To promote prevention, education, and support for young people, staff, and volunteers.

Definitions

'Drugs' refers to illegal substances, the misuse of legal substances (including prescribed or over-the-counter medicines), volatile substances (e.g., aerosols, solvents), alcohol, and tobacco when misused or used by those underage.

Key Principles

- Zero tolerance for illegal drug possession, use, or supply at any club activity.
- No attendance under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Promote prevention and education alongside support and safeguarding.
- Staff and volunteers must role-model responsible behaviour.

Young People – Expectations and response

Young people must not bring or use illegal or inappropriate substances at sessions, trips, or events.

If suspected:

1. Ensure safety.
2. Confiscate the substance safely and inform the Lead Youth Worker.
3. Record incident and notify parents/guardians unless unsafe to do so.
4. Provide support and, if appropriate, refer to specialist agencies.

Staff and Volunteers - Expectations and response

- Must not attend under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Must declare prescribed medication affecting performance.
- Breaches handled through disciplinary procedures and support where appropriate.
- Training will be provided for recognising and responding to substance misuse.

Prevention and education

- Deliver age-appropriate sessions using evidence-based resources (e.g., Hope UK).
- Provide staff training on drug awareness and referral routes.
- Make information about local support services available at the club.

Confidentiality and safeguarding

Incidents will be managed confidentially, but safeguarding and legal obligations override confidentiality. Concerns about risk will trigger the Safeguarding Policy.

Recording and monitoring

- All incidents logged in the Incident Log.
- The Lead Youth Worker monitors patterns and reports annually.
- Reviews follow incidents or policy updates.

Enforcement and sanctions

- Young people may face suspension, meeting with parents, or exclusion for breaches.
- Staff or volunteers may face disciplinary action or dismissal for serious breaches.

Legal context and review

Aligned with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and NYA sector guidance. Policy reviewed annually or following incidents or legal changes.

Approval

Lead Youth Worker: _____ Date: _____

JPYC Committee Chair: _____ Date: _____