



**ST JAMES CofE CHURCH  
PARISH OF ROUNDS GREEN  
DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM**

**POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE  
AND ADULTS FROM DRUG ABUSE**

This policy statement was adopted on behalf of all members of the congregation by St James, Parochial Church Council.

This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

The next St James Parochial Church Council review is due in June 2019.

This Church appoints the following named person to be Drug Abuse Coordinator, and to work with the Incumbent or their deputy to ensure that this policy is followed monitored, evaluated and reviewed:

The named person is: Christopher Sale. Youth and Community Regeneration Coordinator

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## **1. Statement of Safeguarding Principles**

### **1.1 Safeguarding Principles of the Church of England**

St James, Parish of Rounds Green Church endorses the following statement of safeguarding principles which appears at the head of each safeguarding policy of the Church of England.

We are committed to:

- the care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry for all: children, young people and adults,
- the safeguarding and protection of children, young people and all adults,
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and where they can find support and best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse.

To this end:

- St James PCC will carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration/membership of the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made, that any adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognizes the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and/or isolation.
- We will seek to protect survivors of sexual abuse from the possibility of further harm and abuse.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision, and referral to the appropriate authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

## **1.2 Further Principles on which this Policy is based**

- 1.2.1 St James PCC has a legal responsibility to ensure its policy meets the prevailing requirements at all times and that local circumstances are taken into account.
- 1.2.2 It is hoped that drug abuse will not be encountered at all but it is necessary to be prepared.
- 1.2.3 The Diocese accepts the evidence published by the relevant authorities in the West Midlands, including the Police, that drug use amongst children and young people is widespread. It is sensible, therefore, to take precautions and implement a local parish drug abuse policy.
- 1.2.4 An explicit policy and procedures are needed, so that, if a drug related incident occurs, everyone concerned knows what the measured response will be.
- 1.2.5 Training may be required for some workers and volunteers.

## **2. Purpose of this Policy**

- 2.1 To protect children and young people (up to age 18 years) from the harmful effects of drug abuse whilst in the care of organisations and/or activities on the premises of St James Church, buildings and grounds.
- 2.2 To protect adults age 18 plus when there are activities for adults in and around the premises of St James Church and there are grounds for suspecting drug abuse.
- 2.3 To enable Parish Workers (i.e. clergy, youth and children workers, leaders of organisations, employees, volunteers) working with children and young people or adults to avoid committing a criminal offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.
- 2.4 To ensure explicit procedures are adopted to deal effectively with any drug related incidents involving children and young people in the care of St James Church.
- 2.5 To ensure appropriate arrangements for the prevention of drug abuse are in place before a commitment to any partnership working between St James Church and other organisations using the Church, and grounds.

## **3. Links with Diocesan Policy**

This Parish Policy is based on:

- the Birmingham Diocesan Policy on Child Protection from Drug Abuse (2001) and
- section 12 of the Church of England, Birmingham child protection policy “God’s Children: Our Diocese” (2007) (November 2010 Revision). Section 12 is entitled “Protecting children and young people from drug abuse” and gives guidance on what a parish drug abuse policy should contain. In 12.2 it is stated that all those responsible for a project or for premises where children and young people are the responsibility of a Parish or the Diocese, must adopt and implement a drugs abuse policy.

#### **4. Links with St James PCC's Policies on Child Protection and Safeguarding Adults**

This policy on the protection of children, young people and adults from drug abuse complements both the Child Protection Policy and the Safeguarding Adults Policy.

#### **5. The Law on Drugs - The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971**

5.1 For practical purposes the relevant legislation is contained in Section 8 of the Act and subsequent case law made under it, including the judgement made by the Appeals Court in the Crown v. Wyner and Brock case.

5.2 Under this Act, anyone in charge of premises who knowingly allows a range of drug-related activities to take place in them commits a criminal offence for which the penalty can be a jail sentence

5.3 Under this Act, the word "knowingly" has a much more extensive meaning than it does in everyday language and includes having a suspicion, ignoring the obvious, or not caring whether an offence has taken place.

5.4 The Act applies with equal force to adults. Workers operating projects for adults where drug taking is a possibility should follow this Policy.

5.5 "A person" was interpreted by the Appeals Court in the Crown v. Wyner and Brock Case to mean "directors, managers, deputy managers, team leaders, and possibly anyone in some sort of control of the premises..."

5.6 The range of drug-related activities includes:

- Producing or attempting to produce a controlled drug.
- Supplying or attempting to supply or offering to supply a controlled drug to another.
- Preparing opium for smoking.
- Smoking cannabis, cannabis resin or opium.

5.7 The Act defines controlled drugs as drugs that it is an offence to possess, supply, offer to supply or produce without authorization.

- Class A drugs include heroin, opium derivatives, cocaine, LSD, ecstasy and amphetamine prepared for injection.
- Class B drugs include barbiturates, cannabis and oral preparations of amphetamines.
- Class C drugs include tranquilisers e.g. valium, sleeping pills, less harmful amphetamines.

#### **6. Local Circumstances**

6.1 St James PCC recognises that the misuse of controlled drugs by children, young people and adults is an increasing problem in our community. Evidence published by relevant authorities in the West Midlands, including the Police and Education, indicate that drug abuse is widespread.

- 6.2 Drug-related activities on the premises of St James, Parish of Rounds Green are not acceptable and this policy is in place to ensure that all concerned are protected from the effects and implications of drug abuse.

## **7. Available Information and Advice**

- 7.1 Appendix E gives a list of telephone numbers of organisations who can provide assistance with drug related issues.
- 7.2 The Bishop's Advisor on Youth Ministry is available for consultation, training and information.
- 7.3 On an annual basis, St James PCC will appoint a named lead persons, who will work with the Incumbent to ensure that this policy is followed monitored, evaluated and reviewed.

## **8. Procedure following a Drug Related Incident**

When a drug related incident has taken place within the context of an organization or activity on the premises of St Hilda's, the person or persons in charge must:

- 8.1 Identify who are the individuals involved.
- 8.2 Keep a written record of names and action taken, including telephone calls. This documentation should conform to published guidance on data protection, whether kept on a computer or not.
- 8.3 Inform the Police if using, dealing in or production of drugs has taken place.
- 8.4 Preserve any materials at the scene e.g. hypodermic needles, foils, tablets, vomit etc. because this may:
- a) help a decision about appropriate medical treatment and/or
  - b) constitute forensic evidence.
- 8.5 Treat hypodermic needles and any other material with care because communicable diseases could be transmitted.
- 8.6 Assess whether a child or young person needs to be removed from the premises immediately and if so how this can best be achieved. This depends on the age of the child or young person, perceived state of health, any aggression displayed. Options include:
- Inviting a parent to collect the child or young person.
  - Seeking first aid.
  - Phoning for an ambulance.
  - Seeking help from the Police.

## **9. The Sanction of Exclusion of an Individual or Group**

- 9.1 A child or young person or and adult who has been involved in a drug-related incident may be banned from an organisation or activity for a specified period of time, but a total ban must be imposed if there is a further incident.
- 9.2 When the project objective itself includes reaching out to children and young people who are already regarded as excluded, the ban

should, where possible, be accompanied by other ways of keeping in touch and by referrals to other agencies. Where breach of the policy falls short of dealing or producing drugs on the premises, for example by turning up under the influence of drugs, the sanction may be a ban for a limited period of time.

9.3 Accurate documentation on all children and young people banned from an organisation or activity for a drug-related incident should be fully recorded and should include:

- a) The name and address of the person banned.
- b) The reason for the ban.
- c) Other steps taken.
- d) Date and time the ban began.
- e) Length of the ban.
- f) Who imposed the ban.
- g) Whether the police were informed.

This documentation should conform to published guidance on data protection, whether kept on a computer or not.

## **10. Physical Restraint of a Child or Young Person**

10.1 Removal of a child or young person from an organisation or activity may exceptionally involve restraint. This is an area requiring specialist knowledge and can raise other child protection issues.

10.2 Broadly speaking, if it can be shown that there is a significant risk of a child or young person injuring themselves or others by their actions, then they can legally be restrained, whenever possible in the presence of at least one other adult.

## **11. Training**

11.1 For this Policy to be effective, leaders of organisations, employees and volunteers must receive training.

11.2 It is neither practicable nor necessary for any staff to become experts in this field.

11.3 Training is available through Sandwell Council and other local organisations DECCA, Hope UK. The Bishop's Adviser for Youth Ministry can also offer advice on training opportunities.

11.4 Minimum training requirements are:

- a) Understanding of the law under Section 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as it applies to everyday situations.
- b) Ability to recognise the main symptoms of drug abuse behaviour and appearance.
- c) Ability to identify the more commonly used controlled substances.
- d) Understanding of the circumstances in which it is reasonable to believe that drug-related activity may be happening and knowledge of what to do about it.

## **12. Publicity about the Policy**

- 12.1 The primary users of an organization or activity i.e. the children and young people must know:
  - a) A policy relating to the use and abuse of drugs is in force.
  - b) The local police have been made aware of this.
  - c) What is likely to happen to them if drugs are found in their possession or they are found to be selling them.
- 12.2 Similarly, all employees and volunteers must be aware of the policy.
- 12.3 Posters about the Policy will be prominently displayed in the church hall, the scout hut and the church porch. Appendix X of "God's Children: Our Diocese" gives an example of a poster explaining the policy.
- 12.4 Appendix Y of "God's Children: Our Diocese" gives an example of a leaflet explaining the policy.

## **13. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

It is the responsibility of St James, PCC to ensure

- a) Regular monitoring, evaluation and annual review of this policy.
- b) That any changes in the law and best practice are taken into account.

## Appendices

### Appendix A Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Maximum Penalties

<b>MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT 1971 MAXIMUM PENALTIES</b>		
	<b>POSSESSION</b>	<b>SUPPLY</b>
<p><b>CLASS A</b> Cocaine, Crack, Ecstasy, Heroin, LSD, Magic Mushrooms (19/7/05), Methamphetamine (inc. Crystal Meth) (18/1/07) &amp; Class B drugs prepared for injection</p>	<p><b>7 years</b> imprisonment or a fine or both</p>	<p><b>Life</b> imprisonment or a fine or both</p>
<p><b>CLASS B</b> Cannabis. Amphetamines, Barbiturates, Codeine in concentration above 2.5%, Dihydrocodeine (DF118), Ritalin</p>	<p><b>5 years</b> imprisonment or a fine or both</p>	<p><b>14 years</b> imprisonment or a fine or both</p>
<p><b>CLASS C</b> Anabolic Steroids (supply), GHB, Benzodiazepine Tranquillisers, Rohypnol, Ketamine (Jan '06)</p>	<p><b>2 years</b> imprisonment or a fine or both</p>	<p><b>14 years</b> imprisonment or a fine or both</p>
<p>Passing drugs amongst friends is supplying. Allowing your house or premises to be used for drug misuse is also illegal. A conviction for any Misuse of Drugs Act offence can affect future employment. Many other countries may refuse visas to people with drug convictions. Misuse will often invalidate insurance policies, including holiday, vehicle and health cover.</p> <p><b><i>To stop someone committing an offence with a drug, you can either destroy it or hand it over to the police.</i></b></p>		

Taken from God's Children: Our Diocese 2007 November 2010 Revision Appendix Z

## **Appendix B      Signs and symptoms of drug misuse**

Below are a number of signs and symptoms that *may* identify drug use.

However, teenagers are very prone to mood swings and tiredness as well as body changes so some of these *may not* be symptoms of drug abuse and could be normal teenage hormonal changes.

- Change of behaviour
- Loss of money
- Loss of co-ordination
- Secretiveness
- Loss of appetite
- Mood swings
- Sleepy
- Unable to sleep
- Change in attitude
- Loss of motivation
- Low self esteem
- Telling lies
- Weight loss
- Truancy
- Chemical smells
- Dilated pupils
- Attracting police attention
- Paraphernalia (there are many different items of paraphernalia some homemade and others bought on the high street):
  - finding actual drugs
  - large cigarette papers (Rizla)
  - roaches
  - bongos
  - discoloured knives
  - magazine paper wraps
  - tin foil
  - syringes
  - mirrors or tiles and razor blades
  - spent aerosol cans with product and no gas
  - cut straws
  - large amounts of money
  - scales, indicating dealing
  - pipes or broken bottle necks

## Appendix C Organisations providing help and support

- **The Anchor Project, Sandwell,**  
Community Drug and Alcohol Team, providing services for adults age 18+ who are experiencing problems with alcohol or drugs. Services include: advice, information, assessment, counselling, addiction treatment, rehabilitation, links with housing support.  
*Address:* 2 St Michael's Court, Victoria St, West Bromwich. B70 8ET  
0845 112 0100
- **Aquarius**  
A free, confidential service helping individuals, families and friends to overcome addiction. Services include: advice, information, one to one support, group sessions, referral to other services if necessary.  
*Address:* Asden House, Victoria Street, West Bromwich. B70 8ET  
0121 525 9292
- **Birmingham Drugline (Turning Point)**  
For any adult affected by their own or someone else's drug use. A telephone helpline, information, advice, crisis support, counselling, street outreach, support with housing, benefits, health, employment.  
*Address:* Dale House, New Meeting Street, Birmingham. B4 7SX  
0121 632 6363
- **Police Drug Prevention Officer**  
Contact local Drug Prevention Officer via 'West Midlands Police'.  
101 (non-emergencies) 999 (emergencies) [email: contactus@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:contactus@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)
- **Swanswell**  
A national alcohol and drug charity, with local offices. Aims to help people overcome alcohol and drugs. Telephone and face to face information, advice, and counselling.  
*Address:* Alberta Building, 128B Oldbury Road, Smethwick. B66 1JE  
0121 553 1333 [email: support@sanswell.org](mailto:support@sanswell.org)
- **ADFAM National**  
A national umbrella organisation, working with and for families affected by drugs and alcohol  
0207 553 7640 [email: admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk)
- **Al-Anon UK**  
An international organisation, with local support groups for people whose lives are affected by drugs and alcohol  
0207 403 0888 [email: enquiries@al-anonuk.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@al-anonuk.org.uk)

- **Alcohol Concern**  
 A small independent national charity which provides information and campaigns about reducing harm from alcohol related problems  
 0207 928 7377      [email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk)
- **Drinkline**  
 Free confidential information and advice for people who are worried about their own drinking and for their family and friends. Can put people in touch with local alcohol advice centres.  
 0300 123 1110 (M-F 9.00 am – 4.00pm, SS 11.00 am - 4.00 pm)
- **Families Anonymous**  
 Self help groups for families and friends of people with drug related problems. Worldwide organisation, with 50 groups across the UK.  
 0207 498 4680  
 Helpline: 0845 120 0660      [email: office@famanon.org.uk](mailto:office@famanon.org.uk)
- **National Drugs Helpline**  
 24 hour, 7 day per week free and confidential telephone service. Advice, information and counselling for people who are concerned or have queries about drug issues.  
 080 077 6600
- **Release**  
 National centre of expertise on drugs and drugs law. Confidential help line, advice and information to the public on drug use and drug laws, counselling, expert witness service, legal outreach, helping with debt and welfare issues, campaigns, publications.  
 0207 324 2989      [email: ask@release.org.uk](mailto:ask@release.org.uk)
- **Re-Solv**  
 National support network for all whose lives are affected by volatile substance abuse (misuse of household products such as gases, glues, aerosols). Helpline offers chance to talk and helps find a local support service. Offer an on line counselling service through partnership with 'Solve it', in a Community Recovery Project.  
 Address: 30a High Street, Stone, Staffordshire. ST15 8AW  
 0178 581 0762 (Re-Solv Helpline) [email: information@re-solv.org](mailto:information@re-solv.org)  
 0153 641 4690 (Solve it)      [email: communityforrecovery.org](http://communityforrecovery.org)
- **Talk to Frank**  
 A-Z list of substances, with explanations of appearance, use, effects, chances of getting addicted, health risks and UK law, a live chat line (2.00 pm – 6.00 pm), friendly, confidential advice, a search to find details of local and national counselling services.  
 0800 123 6600      [email: frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com)