

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Drug and Alcohol Policy dated: Sept 2024

Name: Parish of Chandler's Ford (hereafter, The Church)

Church Address:

St. Boniface Church, Hursley Road, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 2FT
and

St. Martin in the Wood Church, Queens Road, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 5AG

Contact details:

Vicar: The Reverend Duncan Hollands

Churchwardens: Lynne Mursell and Jane Keen

Safeguarding Officer: Anne Addiss

Office address:

The Parish Office
St Boniface Church
Hursley Road
Chandler's Ford
Hampshire
SO53 2FT

Phone: 023 8026 5977

Email: office@parishcf.church

Policy Review Date: May 2025



THE PARISH OF
CHANDLER'S FORD

Purpose

To provide workers, both employed and volunteers, with a clear and a practical framework to enable them to work with young people in a positive, drug free environment.

Mission Statement

The Parish of Chandler's Ford does not condone the misuse of drugs or alcohol nor their illegal supply.

The Parish will work proactively with young people to enable them to make informed decisions about drug and alcohol use.

The welfare of young people must be paramount at all times.

Youth and children's workers will observe the current legal framework and act within it.

Youth and children's workers will not take illegal substances and will make sure that they are not under the influence of legal drugs or alcohol whilst working with and responsible for children or young people.

Confidentiality

The Parish aims to protect the young person's right to privacy. However, the unconditional confidentiality cannot be guaranteed where the young person, or their behaviour, represents a serious risk to the safety of themselves or to the safety or well being of other members, workers or the community at large.

Police

In circumstances where a worker is given, finds, or confiscates an illegal substance, there is no obligation to contact the police. It is, however, beneficial to maintain an effective working partnership with the local police.

Parents

In cases of immediate risk to health the parents will be contacted.

If the worker believes, parental contact would exacerbate the situation (e.g. the family home may be an important factor in the young person's drug use) he/she must discuss the situation with the Parish Safeguarding Officer prior to any contact being made.

Dealing with drug related situations

Establish and be clear about the nature of the incident before deciding on any course of action

Finding drugs

If workers find any drugs, including prescribed medication, in a communal area they will be removed, to limit the risk to others.

The law allows youth workers to confiscate illegal drugs, but they must be destroyed immediately or handed to the police. It is not a legal requirement to inform the police whom the substance was taken from. A youth worker should not be working alone when confiscating drugs.

If the drug is prescribed medication, it will either be returned to the owner, or handed in to a pharmacist.

Disposal of illegal drugs

Where the quantity of drugs found is large (implying supply), the police should be notified.

Small quantities of drugs can be flushed away. The incident must first be logged and should be carried out in the presence of another worker.

Disposal should be carried out as soon as practicable; otherwise, the worker could themselves be open to charges of possession.

Workers must take extreme care if disposing of needles. If no sharps bins are available, they should be carefully placed in a safe place e.g. drink can, until proper disposal can be arranged.

Use on church premises

The Parish will not tolerate the use of **any** illegal drugs on the premises. Where workers suspect drug use is taking place, they must always take action. This may include the young person being asked to leave, or the police being contacted.

At all times it is our policy to ensure laws in respect of the sale and consumption of alcohol are rigidly observed.

Intoxication on church premises

Anyone, whose behaviour is disruptive, whether due to drugs or alcohol, will be challenged, and asked to change their behaviour. If they refuse to do so, and the person is 18 or over, they will be asked to leave the premises. Depending on degree of behaviour, the police will be informed. If their condition gives cause for concern medical assistance will be called.

Incident recording

An incident book, (loose-leaf file) will be maintained and stored securely in the Vicarage. This book will record all incidents including drug-related incidents. Workers should endeavour to record accurate details as soon as possible following an incident.

Referral

Should a Young Person be identified as experiencing problematic drug use, they should be offered support, guidance, and relevant referral if needed. A list of useful contact numbers will be found on the notice board in the Parish Office.

Parish Safeguarding Officer Contact Details:

Safeguarding Officer: Anne Addiss

E-mail: safeguarding@parishcf.church

Dedicated phone number: 07470 951191