



# Drugs Policy

<b>Governor Lead:</b>	<b>Pastoral Sub-Committee</b>
<b>Named senior staff:</b>	<b>Headmaster</b>
<b>Last Review Date:</b>	<b>June 2018</b>

## 1 Introduction

Although a school drugs policy is non-statutory, schools do have a statutory duty to promote pupils' well-being and preventing drug misuse is part of that duty. This policy sets out the school's role in relation to drug matters and is consistent with the school's safeguarding policy.

## 2 Scope

Where this document refers to drugs, this includes alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances ("legal highs") and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified. School has a duty of care to its pupils to invoke this policy within the school's boundaries, on any school-related activity, and out of school hours where we have concerns about the well-being of the pupil. Drug use involving staff is dealt with under a separate policy. Except where specifically mentioned as otherwise, 'drugs' will refer to substances mentioned above except for medicines that are sanctioned for use by the pupil concerned.

For ease, reference to school premise means on the school site or in such places when under school-based activities.

### 3 Aims

To ensure pupils do not misuse drugs – no pupil misuses or deals in drugs

And also to:

- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programmes and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school.
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community.
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme. • Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved.
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school.

### 4 Practice

The first position of the school is concern for the health and safety of the pupil directly involved and then with the wider school community. The rules and practice of this policy, together with pastoral education of the children and staff training, plus work with other agencies are designed to maximise the health and safety outcomes of the pupils.

- Illegal and other unauthorised drugs are strictly prohibited within the school's boundaries and in association with any school activity. Pupils must never bring, or cause others to bring such drugs on to school premises. Pupils must never use, or cause others to use such drugs on to school premises.
- Pupils under the influence or suspected of being under the influence of drugs are not allowed on school premises and will be isolated and then removed from the school premises when it is safe to do so. This is to ensure the proper agencies deal with the pupil and to prevent others from being disturbed by such behaviours. If necessary it may be treated as a medical emergency and appropriate support should be summoned.
- Authorised drugs/medicines must be used strictly within the guidance given by the school Health & Safety Policy.
- School is a smoke-free site

All members of staff have a duty to inform the Headmaster if he or she feels that there is an issue relating to drugs within the school. Specifically, the following teachers as **Lead Staff** have additional responsibility relating to the education and general well-being of the students:-

- Designated safeguarding leads
- Deputy headmaster
- Pastoral Heads

## 5 Drug Education

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. Drug prevention aims to: stop young people engaging in drug use; reduce the harm caused by drugs; and enable those who have concerns about drugs to seek help. Drug education is delivered through well-planned PSHE provision, briefings and assemblies, and the statutory requirements within the National Curriculum Science Order for all phases is the basis for developing drug education.

Training will also be provided for staff to ensure they are equipped to spot the signs of drug use and the school procedures to intervene with pupils suspected of mis-using drugs, including working with external agencies.

## 6 Management of drugs at school

Any person suspected of possessing or using drugs during the school's duty of care is referred immediately to the Lead Staff and the Headmaster is informed.

The headmaster and lead staff have the statutory power to search pupils or their possessions with their consent. Staff do not need written consent from the pupil. If the pupil agrees, then turning out of pockets or looking inside bags or lockers are fine for this sort of search.

### **If the pupil refuses to co-operate:**

The headmaster and lead staff have the statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, **without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting a pupil has a prohibited item**. In such cases, as well as the right to search, it is also appropriate that the school imposes a suitable disciplinary measure because of the lack of co-operation.

- The headmaster and lead teachers have the right to search
- The member of staff must be the same sex as the pupil who is being searched AND there must also be a witness (preferably the same sex as the pupil)
- A search by the opposite sex is possible and without a witness in the exceptional case where there is a risk of serious harm that could be caused by the pupil if the search isn't conducted immediately and it isn't practicable to summon another member of staff.
- Staff can refuse to undertake a search
- There is no requirement to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search their child
- There is no legal requirement to keep a record of the search

### **During the search**

- The person conducting the search may not require the pupil to remove any clothing other than outer clothing (ie clothing that is not worn next to the skin or over underwear)
- Possessions means anything over which the pupil appears to have control eg desks, lockers, bags
- The search should be done in the presence of the pupil and another member of staff, save for the exceptions outlined above.
- The search must not be intimate – these are powers reserved for police officers.

**If the pupil resists** eg refuses to hand bags over, or prevents searching a coat then:

- School advice is to not use force – ie don't grapple to get a bag, or force a coat off them
- Tell the pupil that such refusal is not going to help their case and will only raise suspicion
- It may be appropriate to call the police especially where you suspect illegal or dangerous substances

### **After the search**

Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where it is reasonable to do so. The person carrying out the search can seize anything they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item or is evidence in relation to an offence.

The person carrying out the search should take a note of items found. The goods should be taken to the headmaster who will decide the next steps. The guidance is:

- Alcohol should be disposed of
- Controlled drugs (or substances that the member of staff suspects could be a controlled drug or could be harmful) should be delivered to the police (Lead staff to call 101)
  - Record full details of the incident including the police reference number
  - It may be that advice from the police, or good professional judgement may lead to the member of staff deciding to safely dispose of the seized item themselves rather than handing over to the police
- Tobacco or cigarette papers should be disposed of
- Parents may be informed of the results of the search (though there is no legal requirement to do so)

Where it is confirmed that a student has been misusing drugs at school, the Headmaster will decide upon the appropriate action in consultation with the relevant lead teachers.

## **7 Taking Action**

A balance has to be found between making the point of the seriousness of the incident and supporting the health and well-being of the pupil. Equally, consideration has to be given to the pupil concerned directly and the impact on others in the school and wider community, while acknowledging the age and maturity of the pupil. Each case will be treated on its merit.

Possible consequences:

- The school may inform the police. This is likely when illegal drug use is suspected or when there is evidence of dealing drugs or coercion or involvement of an adult.
- Insistence on attendance at a suitable education programme (such as Phoenix Futures, smoking cessation, FRANK)
- Internal isolation as part of a support programme
- Fixed term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion

## **8 Confidentiality In managing drugs**

Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear to pupils. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive, not generally known, and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, the request should be honoured unless this is unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to: Child protection, Co-operating with a police investigation, Referral to external service. Every effort should be made to secure the pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information. It may be necessary to invoke local child protection procedures if a pupil's safety is under threat. It should be only in exceptional circumstances that sensitive information is passed on against a pupil's wishes, and even then the school should inform the pupil first and endeavour to explain why this needs to happen.

### **E Parents**

In any incident involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs the school will normally involve the child's parents/carers and explain how the school intends to respond to the incident and to the pupil's needs. Where the school suspects that to do this might put the child's safety at risk, or if there is any other cause for concern for the child's safety at home, (for example, the parents are complicit in the drug use or availability) then the school will exercise caution when considering involving parents/carers. In any situation where a pupil may need protection from the possibility of abuse, the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads will be consulted and this will usually involve a SARF referral to MARAT. (Safeguarding Policy has details on this)

### **F The Governors**

As part of their general responsibilities for the strategic direction of the school, The Governors have a key role to play in the development of all school's policies. The chair of governors meets regularly with the headmaster and the pastoral sub-committee are reported to for all safeguarding and child-welfare matters. The headmaster is accountable to this body.