



TEENAGE KICKS

Engagement • Progress • Outcomes

DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

Approved by:	James Docherty
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Aims

The aim of this policy is to clarify the school's role in drug prevention and education and to ensure that its approach is appropriate to pupils' needs.

The policy provides information and guidance about drug education, as well as procedures to respond to any drug-related incident, for pupils, teachers, support staff and outside agencies or individuals.

The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole school community.

Staff delivering drug education should be confident and appropriately skilled, and pupils should receive up-to-date, relevant and accurate information and support.

This policy sets out clear procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents. Any sanctions will be consistent with the school's Improving Behaviour Policy. This policy should also be read alongside the Curriculum Policy, RSE Policy, Children with Medical Conditions Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Searching Policy and SEND Policy.

This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport, as well as school visits, trips and residential.

1. Definition

For the purposes of this policy, 'drugs' includes legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, nicotine and vaping products, volatile substances and solvents; over-the-counter and prescribed medicines; illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD; novel psychoactive substances (NPS); and any other substances controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 or a Temporary Class Drug Order (TCDO).

The unauthorised possession, supply or use of drugs and other substances covered by this policy is prohibited on school premises, on school transport and during school activities and visits.

Drugs and substances covered by this policy must not be bought, sold, exchanged, supplied or used during the school day, on school premises, on school transport or during school visits unless they are authorised medicines used in accordance with the Children with Medical Conditions Policy.

2. Drug Education

The school provides planned, age-appropriate drug education through PSHE/RSE and Health Education, science where appropriate, and other relevant curriculum opportunities. This includes:

- At Key Stage 3, pupils learn about the risks and effects of alcohol, tobacco, nicotine and vaping products, volatile substances, medicines and illegal drugs, and how these can affect physical and mental health
- At Key Stage 4, pupils build on this knowledge through age-appropriate learning about substance misuse, dependency, risk, decision-making, the law and sources of help and support. Relevant learning may also be delivered through morning meetings and carefully planned input from external agencies

This provision will reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills that will:

- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices

- Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- Provide accurate information about substances
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support

The drug education programme will be informed by the DfE's Drugs: advice for schools and the current statutory guidance on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.

3. Responsibility

Drug education will normally be delivered by school staff, with external agencies used where their input adds value. External contributions will be planned and evaluated, and the school remains responsible for the quality and appropriateness of the provision.

Staff will have access to ongoing advice, support and training as part of their professional development. The school will co-operate with relevant agencies, including the Local Authority, police, health services and specialist drug and alcohol services.

4. Statutory Duty of the School

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with SLT and parents/carers, the Local Authority and appropriate outside agencies. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

A school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug (for example the preparation or smoking of cannabis). Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, and as much information as possible, will be passed to the police.

5. Implementation of the Policy

Where an incident involves suspected substance misuse, possession or supply on school premises, during the school day, on school transport or during a school activity, the following procedures will apply. The school's response is informed by the DfE's Drugs: advice for schools.

- Any medical emergency will be dealt with in accordance with Appendix A and the school's First Aid Policy
- In cases of suspected substance use, misuse or supply, the incident will be discussed with the pupil and a written record made. Parents/carers will be informed by the Headteacher or a member of SLT as soon as appropriate, unless doing so would place the pupil at increased risk. Relevant external support will be sought where appropriate and, for pupils on dual placements, information will be shared with the mainstream school where necessary and appropriate
- If a pupil discloses substance misuse or supply away from school, the Headteacher or SLT will consider the appropriate safeguarding and pastoral response, including whether parents/carers and relevant agencies should be informed
- If a pupil appears to be under the influence of a substance, staff will assess whether urgent medical attention is required. Parents/carers will normally be contacted and the pupil may need to be collected from school, with medical advice sought where appropriate

- The police may be consulted or informed where appropriate, at the discretion of the Headteacher in consultation with SLT and with regard to the circumstances of the incident, safeguarding considerations and relevant guidance
- The school will consider each incident individually and will use a proportionate range of safeguarding, pastoral and behavioural responses
- The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required

Specific cases will be managed in accordance with the procedures set out in this policy and the school's safeguarding, behaviour, searching and medical procedures.

Appendix A sets out the procedure for drug-related medical emergencies.

Appendix A: Drug Situations – Medical Emergencies

The procedures for an emergency apply when a person is at immediate risk of harm. A person who is unconscious, having trouble breathing, seriously confused or disorientated, or who has taken any harmful toxic substance, should be responded to as an emergency. The main responsibility is for the pupil at immediate risk, but staff also need to ensure the well-being and safety of others. Put into practice the school's first aid procedures. If in any doubt, call for medical help.

Always:

- Assess the situation
- If it is a medical emergency, send for medical help and an ambulance

Before assistance arrives, if the person is conscious:

- Ask them what has happened and to identify any drug used
- Collect any drug sample and vomit for medical analysis
- Do not induce vomiting
- Do not chase or over-excite them if intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance
- Keep them under observation, warm and quiet

If the person is unconscious:

- Ensure that they can breathe and place them in the recovery position
- Do not move them if a fall is likely to have led to spinal or other serious injury which may not be obvious
- Do not give them anything by mouth
- Do not attempt to make them sit or stand
- Do not leave them unattended or in charge of another pupil
- Notify parents/carers

For needlestick (sharps) injuries:

- Encourage the wound to bleed gently. Do not suck the wound. Wash it with soap and water, dry it and apply a waterproof dressing. Appropriate PPE must be worn while administering first aid
- If a used or dirty needle is involved, seek advice from a doctor and ensure the needle is disposed of correctly, unless needed for investigation

When medical help arrives:

- Pass on any information available, including vomit and any drug samples

Complete the appropriate medical and incident records as soon as practicable after the emergency has been dealt with. In this appendix, 'drugs' includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and nicotine products, novel psychoactive substances and illegal drugs.