



**CSS**

Children's  
Support  
Service

# Children's Support Service

## Drugs Policy

Date of Policy: January 2023

Date of Review: January 2025



## **Aim**

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and education and ensure it 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. Teachers will need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils need to receive up to date, relevant and accurate information as well as support.

This policy aims to make clear procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the school's behaviour policy. As a matter of course, all staff, parents/carers and pupils are reminded of this policy on an annual basis. This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport as well as school visits/trips/fieldwork/residential's etc.

## **The School's stance towards drugs, health and the needs of pupils**

- Illegal and other unauthorised drugs (as defined above) are not allowed on the site of any Centre.
- The Centres are smoke free environments (including e-cigarettes/vapes) and the rules state that no smoking is allowed.
- Any drug incident will be dealt with immediately (see Appendix B)
- Foremost is the health and Safety of the centres, communities and meeting the pastoral needs of the pupils.

## **Definition of a Drug Incident**

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia found on school premises.
- Pupils found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia.
- Pupil found to be supplying drugs.
- Pupil thought to be under the influence of drugs.
- Pupil discloses that they or a family member are misusing drugs.



**Definition:** “Drugs” are taken here to mean those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs, and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD, Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and any other substances covered by the 1971 misuse of drugs act; psychoactive substances act 2016, or that is subject to a temporary class drug order (TCDO). The school prohibits all substances having psychoactive effects on the brain: depressants, stimulants, cannabinoids, and hallucinogens.

The school believes that the possession and or use of such drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is inappropriate. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, *or* while pupils are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines where appropriate.

## Drug Education

The school provides planned drug education through links across the curriculum, including PSHCE, Science – as well as 1:1 work, group work, interventions and mentoring.

Within the PSHCE curriculum, the use of ‘Risk Avert’ has been appointed to anonymously identify the level of drug use amongst students and to plan appropriate levels of education/intervention.

The National Curriculum Science order outlines the content of the *statutory* drugs education:

- Key stage 2, pupils can list the commonly available substances and drugs that are legal and illegal, and can describe some of the effects and risks of these. They can identify and explain how to manage the risks in different familiar situations (for example discussing issues connected to personal safety).
- Key Stage 3, 11-14 year olds should be taught that abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health; that the body’s natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines; and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange
- Key Stage 4, 14-16 year olds should be taught the effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions



Other discretionary topics will be delivered through PSHCE, mentoring sessions and outside agencies and 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 content of the Drug Education Programme will be based on Appendix 2 of *Drugs: guidance for schools 2012*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/270169/drug\\_advice\\_for\\_schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf)

On the whole, it will be teachers and outside agencies who will teach drug education. Such agencies should be used in a planned way and their contributions evaluated. Teachers will have access to on-going advice, support and training as part of their own professional development. The school actively cooperates with agencies such as the LA, Police, Health and other agencies such as The Children's Society and YPDAS (Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service).

**Statutory duty of the school:** The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Management Committee, parents/ carers, LA and appropriate outside agencies. The head teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

### Implementation of the policy

In incidents involving substance misuse or supply on the premises/during the school day, and following discussion with the pupil and staff, action will proceed as follows.



The school has adopted the procedures as laid out in *Drugs: advice for schools (DfE, 2012)*

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with as per Appendix A
- In cases of substance use/misuse or supply on the premises, during the school day or during school visits etc, the case will be discussed with the young person and a written record put on SIMs.
- **Where there is a significant safeguarding cause for concern, this will also be reported on MyConcern (online safeguarding reporting portal). This will automatically notify DSLs within CSS and also the DSL for any referring school.**
- If a pupil is suspected of carrying drugs he/she/they will be asked to give it up.  
*Senior staff reserve the right to search students where they suspect pupils may be in possession of illegal drugs (there should be another member of staff present)*

If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the appropriate action will be to inform the Head of Centre/Leader/DSL and the Engagement Mentor, or Personal Tutor, where appropriate. Parents/carers will be informed, as will a **social worker/YOT worker, if working with the family**. The support of outside agencies will be sought if appropriate

If a member of staff has to take temporary possession of an illegal drug or paraphernalia:

- Ensure that a second adult is present throughout
- Seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the incident and the other adult present.
- Store in a secure location.
- **Notify the police without delay who will dispose of the drug.**

A school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug (e.g. the preparation of, 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.

While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, they may also be involved at the discretion of the Head teacher in consultation with Management Committee members and staff who know the young person well.

The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident. Specific cases will be managed as per Appendix B: all staff, pupils, parents/carers will be informed of these issues.



The Management Committee will be involved in drug-related incidents as they are concerning other matters relating to the school.

The Head teacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. Additional support and advice is available from the LA Communication Officer Education.

All staff, parents/carers and young people will be reminded of this policy, and its procedures annually and on induction.



APPENDIX A : Drug situation – medical emergencies

APPENDIX B : Situations involving drugs without medical authority

APPENDIX C : Useful organisations

## 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 you 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 medical help.*

### **Always:**

- Assess the situation
- If a medical emergency, send for medical help and 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 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

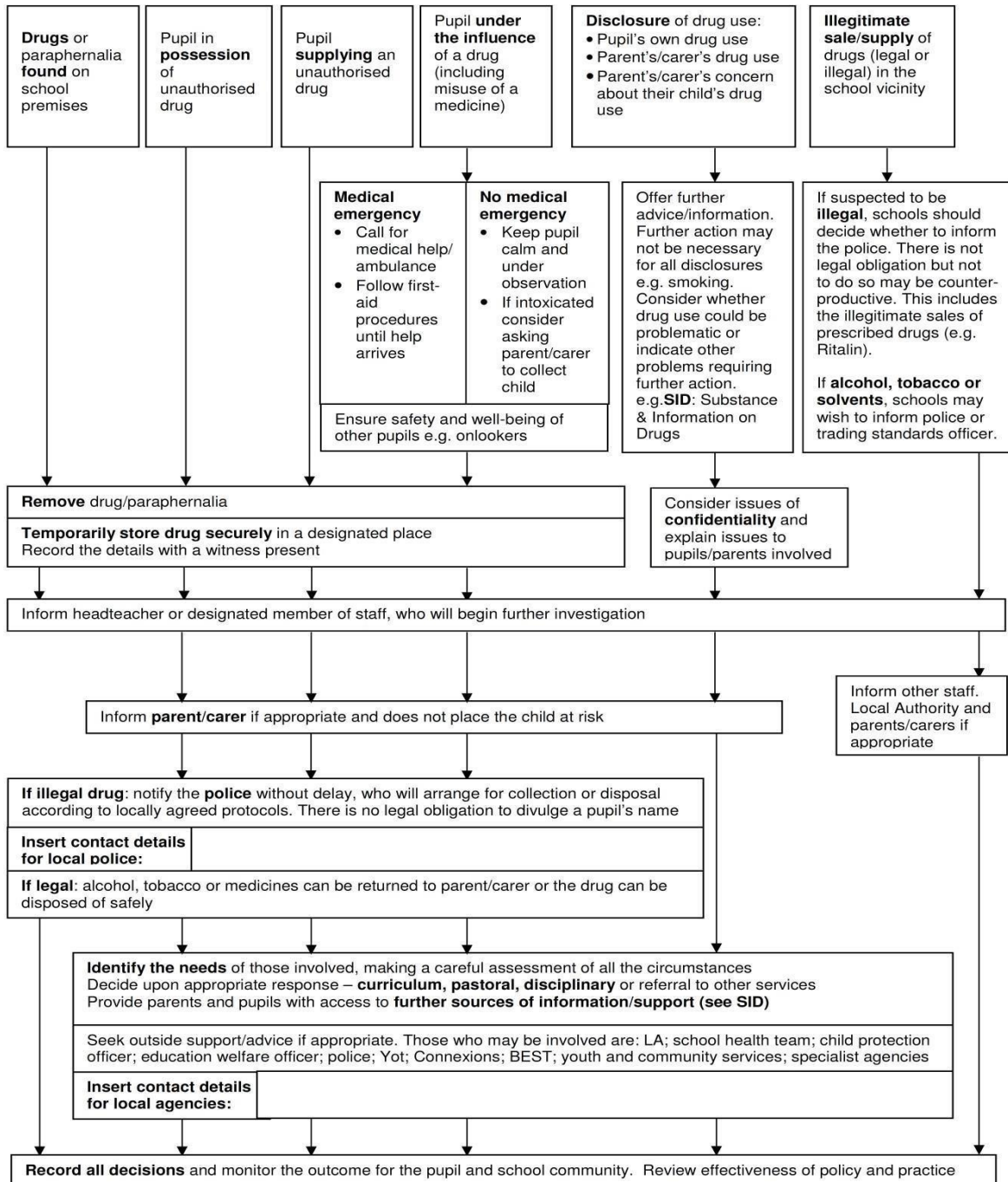
*For needle stick (sharps) injuries:*

- Encourage wound to bleed. Do not suck. Wash with soap and water. Dry and apply waterproof dressing
- If used/dirty needle seek advice from a doctor

## When medical help arrives

- Pass on any information available, including vomit and any drug samples
- Complete a medical record form as soon as you have dealt with the emergency.

## APPENDIX B: Responding to incidents involving drugs



111 or 999 in an emergency Seek outside support if appropriate e.g family operations hub, YPDAS, school nurse, YOT





## Appendix C – Useful Organisations

**Addaction** is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.

Website: [www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)

**ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk)

Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Alcohol Concern** works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems

Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: [contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk)

Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)

**ASH (Action on Smoking and Health)** A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk)

Website: [www.ash.org.uk](http://www.ash.org.uk)

**Children's Legal Centre** operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.

Tel: 01206 877910 Email: [clc@essex.ac.uk](mailto:clc@essex.ac.uk)

Website: [www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)

**Children's Rights Alliance for England** - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: [info@crae.org.uk](mailto:info@crae.org.uk) Website: [www.crae.org.uk](http://www.crae.org.uk)

**Drinkaware** - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk/](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/)

**Drug Education Forum** – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners:

Website: [www.drugeducationforum.com/](http://www.drugeducationforum.com/)



**DrugScope** is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: [info@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:info@drugscope.org.uk)

Website: [www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.org.uk)

**FRANK** is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com)

Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

**Mentor UK** is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email [admin@mentoruk.org](mailto:admin@mentoruk.org)

Website: [www.mentoruk.org.uk](http://www.mentoruk.org.uk)

**National Children's Bureau** promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)

**Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse)** A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.

Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762

Email: [information@re-solv.org](mailto:information@re-solv.org) Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

**Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169**

Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

**Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: [www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk](http://www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk)

**YPDAS – Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service**

Website: <https://www.childrenssocietyeast.org.uk/eypdas/>