DRUGS AND ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES POLICY

(This policy reflects Article 33 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - the right to be protected from all harmful drugs)

Policy Objective

The policy's key objective is to define the school's agreed position on issues involving drugs.

Policy Statement

Our aim at this school is to encourage and support all pupils to achieve their full potential. We believe that healthy children with a positive control over their lives, are more likely to learn and achieve. Other than for medical reasons, pupils should not be in possession of any drugs whilst at school or participating in educational experiences organised by the school.

The school has a very serious approach to any incidents involving alcohol or drug misuse, or alcohol or drug supply.

Any pupil that has to take medicinal drugs during school hours, should show a written note from a parent or carer, explaining the reasons for taking the drug, along with the necessary dose.

The school will make a firm statement of its expectations in relation to being healthy and achieving in all aspects of pupils' lives.

Staff and external agencies will promote information about drugs through educational programmes and any other opportunities to discuss the issue and provide clear information that will support pupils in better understanding the effects and repercussions of drug misuse.

By delivering drugs education, the school will enable pupils to make informed choices about issues that affect their health, including the use and misuse of alcohol and drugs.

Moral and Values Framework

The school will promote the values underpinning healthy personal and social development. These values, agreed by the school, include respect, tolerance, care, justice, hope and responsibility.

Definition of Drugs

A drug is defined as a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

List of Drugs
The school considers the following substances as drugs. This is not an exhaustive list but is included as guidance.

- Alcohol
- Amphetamines
- Amyl and Butyl Nitrate
- Anabolic Steroids
- Barbiturates
- Benzodiazepines
- Caffeine
- Cannabis
- Cocaine
- Ecstasy
- Magic Mushrooms
- LSD
- Opiates
- Pharmaceutical Medicines
- Solvents
- Tobacco (Nicotine)
- Vape including Cannabis Oil

Drugs Education
In delivering drugs education at our school our aims are as follows:

- To encourage pupils to develop an understanding of drugs, and the appropriate use of drugs
- Myth-busting
- To provide correct information
- To reinforce values and attitudes

Our objectives are as follows:

- To encourage self-esteem
- To enable individuals to make informed choices
- To support pupils to manage their personal, social and emotional development
- To develop personal and social skills
- To look at strategies for a healthy lifestyle

Drugs education will also contain a cross-curricular element, as well as a specific programme within the personal and social education and health courses provided by the school.

Drugs education is coordinated by the member of the SLT who monitors the Heath and Well Being AoLE.

Sessions will also be delivered by professionals such as PC Robert George.

Managing Drug Related Issues

Welfare
The health and welfare of pupils who have taken (or are presumed to have taken) drugs, is managed within the procedure in place for pupils who are ill. Staff are expected to care for every pupil's physical, social and emotional well-being.

Information
Some of the pupils involved with drugs may not know a lot about drugs and their effects. A key objective of drugs education is informed choice. Therefore, should a pupil be in danger due to lack of knowledge, the school will endeavour to provide him/her with the correct information.

Discipline
The Headteacher must be informed of any drug-related incident.

Pastoral support is offered to any pupils who have misused drugs.

For incidents of drug misuse or supply on school premises, the school will act following discussion with staff and an appropriate investigation. The Chair of Governors will be informed.

Should there be **indisputable evidence** that the pupil has been in possession of drugs **on school premises** and/or taken drugs, the following steps should be taken:

1. A fixed term exclusion
2. Interview the parent/parents
3. Contact external pupil welfare agencies
4. Produce an agreed action plan between the school/pupil/parents and agency

Should the pupil voluntarily admit to having misused drugs, and the pupil is under 16 years of age, parents must be informed.

Should there be **indisputable evidence** that the pupil is selling or supplying drugs on school premises, the school will consider the following steps:

1. Permanent exclusion
2. Interview the parent/parents
3. Contact other agencies
4. Consider contacting the Police

Staff Development
The school will have resources for the use of staff giving informing about drugs and drug-related issues.

During INSET sessions, we aim to share basic information about drugs and drug-related issues with teachers.

Responsibility
All members of staff are required to deliver the policy.

APPENDIX 1

THE POLICE

There is no legal obligation for the school or any individual to inform the Police about incidents involving taking or selling illegal drugs.

However, according to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, it is a criminal offence for the occupier or manager of a building to allow or tolerate the smoking of, the supply of, attempted supply of or offer to supply controlled drugs in the building.

It is imperative that the school supports law and order and cooperates with the Police when necessary.

It is recommended that the Police are contacted when there is firm evidence that drugs are being sold.

APPENDIX 2

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Special care should be taken when dealing with a substance that could be a drug. Disposable gloves should be used wherever possible. If there are no gloves available, then hands should be washed following contact with the substance.

Needles should be handled with care to avoid needle injury. A dedicated box should be kept at the school for the disposal of needles.

In case of injury from a needle, medical attention should be sought immediately.

Seizure:
Should a member of staff seize any substance believed to be a drug, they should ensure that a witness (another adult) is available to confirm that the substance has been kept in a safe place. This

information should be signed and counter-signed. This substance should be kept in a safe place until a decision is made on the appropriate approach. Should a child need to be taken to hospital, the remains of any substance taken in tablet form should be taken to the hospital by the teacher or ambulance driver.

APPENDIX 3

Substances presumed to be illegal

If a decision is made to call the Police, the substance should be given to the Police Officer, ensuring that the officer receiving the substance signs the record. If the Police are not called, the substance should be taken to the Police Station for disposal. Again, it should be ensured that a Police Officer signs the record. Some specialist agencies are willing to accept and dispose of substances. Again, it should be ensured that the agency signs the record.

Substances presumed to be legal

Should there be evidence that the pupil has a legal right to be in possession of a seized substance, consideration should be given to the following:

Is the pupil the owner of the substance?
Is the substance for medicinal purposes and therefore required by the pupil?
Is there evidence of misuse of the substance?

Having considered the above, it may be wise to return the substance to the parents/guardians of the pupil rather than the pupil.

(Reviewed: July 2026)