



DRUGS POLICY

Last Review:	February 2022
Committee:	Learning
Date Ratified:	15 February 2022
Next Review:	May 2024

Rationale

Schools, parents/carers and a range of agencies working with young people have an important role to play in the delivery of the Government's strategies on drugs. Schools play a key role in providing drug education and pastoral support to all students and identifying vulnerable students so that those who need extra help receive it either in school or through referral to other services.

Drug education is a major component of preventing drug abuse. By educating our students we aim to: minimise the number of young people engaging in drug use; delay the age of onset of first use; reduce the harm caused by drugs; and enable those who have concerns about drugs to seek help (refer to appendix 1).

Definition

The term 'drugs' includes all controlled substances and other substances that may be harmful or adversely affect behaviour. The school recognises the range of such substances is constantly changing. Therefore a Drugs Policy cannot give an exhaustive list of such substances.

Policy Aims

- To provide accurate information about drugs and other harmful substances
- To actively discourage any involvement with illegal drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and make everyone aware of the consequences of substance misuse
- To ensure compliance with criminal law, where it is an offence for any person to possess, use, supply or sell drugs
- To provide a clear understanding of how the school will deal with suspected drugs offences

These aims will be fulfilled through a coordinated programme of education spread throughout the curriculum. The main vehicle will be the PD programme, but other opportunities to reinforce learning occur in other parts of the teaching programme, for example in Religious Education, English, Drama and Science.

The School will also work with other agencies such as Health Professionals, Community Police, School Beat Officers, Social Services, Infobuzz, Gloucestershire Misuse Team, Education Advisers and Youth/Community workers to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance misuse.

Staff will be expected to set the highest standards as examples of and in promoting an anti-drug culture. They will also reinforce the message through their teaching.

Responsibilities of the school

- Maintaining a continuing programme of education throughout the curriculum

- Ensuring all staff and students are reminded periodically of the need for and information contained in this policy
- Arranging appropriate in-service training for staff periodically
- Keeping parents/carers informed through newsletters and presentations, involving other agencies and local police community liaison officers as appropriate
- Provide targeted support for vulnerable students
- Arranging individual support and counselling to any student genuinely seeking help under the school's pastoral care provision. A student coming forward with a drug problem will receive help. Additionally, they may be dealt with per the investigation procedure below.
- Undertake confidential drugs screening where necessary
- Where reasonable grounds for suspicion of drugs involvement arise, arranging an immediate investigation per the procedure below.

Investigating Drugs Related Incidents

As soon as any drugs related activity is suspected:

- The student(s) should be isolated under the supervision of other staff members and searched in line with the school's search procedure
- The Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher Behaviour and Attitudes should be informed who will appoint a member of staff to conduct an initial investigation and statements should be taken from all students involved
- If substances are found, the suspected substance should be confiscated immediately and secured in the Headteacher's office. If necessary, the school will contact the police for advice and guidance.
- Illegal substances may be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored.
- Parents/carers should be informed at the earliest opportunity (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student).
- The Youth Support Team, Police, GP or Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.
- A contemporaneous log of events should be initiated and maintained from the outset
- The Chair of Governors must be informed

In all cases a programme of family/student support is to be considered in consultation with appropriate agencies and implemented at the earliest opportunity.

Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

- **Medicines**
The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. We follow procedures recommended by Gloucestershire County Council's Health & Safety guidelines.
- **Alcohol**
No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of a school day. Any student, parents, carers and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents will be asked to collect their children from the school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

- **Smoking**
School premises are a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. Smoking on or within 200m of the school premises will result in a school detention and subsequent offences will receive additional sanctions and referred for support. This also applies to “vaping” and the use of electronic cigarettes.
- **Illegal drugs and legal highs**
No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of legal highs either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.
- **Solvents**
The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Disciplinary Action

Substance misuse is viewed with great seriousness. The following disciplinary action will be taken:

1. Drugs

- i) **Being under the influence of drugs**
First offence will lead to an exclusion
- ii) **Possession of drugs on the school site (excluding supply or intent to supply*)**
Will lead to a fixed term exclusion and additional offences could lead to a permanent exclusion
- iii) **Concerned in the supply of, or intent to supply illegal drugs***
Will result in a permanent exclusion and police being contacted.

2. Alcohol

- i) **Being under the influence of alcohol**
First offence will lead to an exclusion
- ii) **Alcohol misuse or possession on the school site (including supply or intent to supply)**
First offence will lead to a fixed term exclusion and repeated offences could lead to a permanent exclusion

3. Smoking of tobacco

- i) **Smoking of tobacco on the school site**
First offence – school detention; after subsequent offences students will be given an additional detention and referred for support.

*Supply or intent to supply includes the sharing of drugs with other students.

Drug Misuse outside the school premises

The school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

Appendix 1: Drugs Education and Prevention

Internal Provision

- PSHE lessons (refer to Personal Development mapping document)
- Whole school focus weeks in assemblies and tutor groups
- One-to-one drugs screening
- Small group targeted intervention delivered in house
- One-to-one prevention workshops
- Parental liaison and support
- Theatre in education and performances with a substance misuse team

Links with External Agencies

- Youth Support Team – substance misuse team
- Health Professionals – school nurse
- Community Police
- Lessons delivered through School Beat Officers
- Social Services
- Infobuzz
- Local family support services – for parental and family support