



KING EDWARD VI
HIGH SCHOOL

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KING EDWARD VI HIGH SCHOOL

DRUGS POLICY

**Encouraging and supporting all our learners to
"Be the best that they can be"**

Headteacher

Mr J Christey

Governor

Mr C Soutar

Review Date

Every 3 years or as legislation changes





Introduction

This policy is informed by the DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for schools, local authorities, Heateachers, school staff and Governing Bodies.

We know that many pupils are likely to be exposed to the effects and influences of drugs in the wider community and be increasingly exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs. Every school therefore has a responsibility to consider its response to drugs. This responsibility was made statutory within the Children's Act 2004 and Education and Inspections Act 2006. It is underpinned by the latest guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). It guides schools in ensuring that the response to drugs misuse is robust, rational and safe.

Substance misuse affects all communities - crossing gender, cultural and social boundaries. No school, parent or carer can afford to be complacent or think that children and young people are not at risk. Schools have a key role to play in ensuring that young people understand the risks involved and have the confidence, knowledge and skills to avoid them.

Schools have a major contribution to make in reducing and/or preventing drug misuse by:

- Creating protective environments which discourage drug or substance misuse;
- Imparting knowledge and skills and supporting young people to make healthier choices;
- Promoting positive behaviours and reducing risk taking behaviour;
- Providing direct support and/or signposting children and young people to appropriate services whenever concerns around misuse arise.

Possession or use of drugs and illicit substances should always be viewed as a Safeguarding and welfare issue first and foremost and schools should seek to place their safeguarding duties at the heart of any response to such incidents. This policy is designed to ensure a proactive and effective response that safeguards and promotes the wellbeing of young people; as well as minimising the risk of further incidents.



Definition of Drugs

The definition of drugs used in this policy is the definition given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime:

"A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave."

This refers to all drugs

- Illegal Psychoactive Substances/new psychoactive substances (Psychoactive Substances Act, 2016);
- Legal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, volatile substances (solvents), poppers; Vapes
- Misuse of over the counter and prescription medicines;
- Illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971) including ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD;
- Other drugs such as anabolic steroids

Throughout this policy, the term 'drugs' is used to refer to all of the above.

Definition of other key words

'Drug use' describes any drug taking. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, including through intoxication, breach of the law or school rules, or future health problems.

'Drug misuse' is drug taking which leads to social, psychological, physical or legal problems through intoxication, regular excessive consumptions and/or dependence.

Aims of the Policy

Schools have a key role to play in ensuring that young people understand the risks involved and have the confidence, knowledge and skills to avoid them. They have a major contribution to make in discouraging drug misuse, encouraging positive attitudes and self-esteem, and promoting healthy lifestyles.



We recognise that drug misuse can have a serious effect on health, wellbeing and academic development. It is the duty of the school to help reduce the harm from drugs, deliver drug prevention and education, as well as helping those who misuse drugs, or who are at risk of drug misuse.

The Department for Education (DfE) advises all schools to have an up-to-date drugs policy, consistent with national and local guidance.

We take a positive and proactive approach to the issue of drugs and this policy aims to:

- Give a clear view on the use of drugs in school and the responsibilities of the school and legal requirements;
- Provide information so that everyone is clear about the school's overall approach to drugs and its procedures should an incident occur;
- Give information about drugs education;
- Give guidance to teachers, support staff and visitors about drugs education.

Approach to Tackling Drugs

We take a whole school approach to drugs through:

- A planned drugs education programme through PSHEE;
- Carefully considered responses to drug-related incidents informed and supported by the views of the whole school community;
- Clear rules and sanctions related to drugs understood by the whole school community;
- Access to specialist support and advice when required;
- Training and support for staff;
- Completing Early Help Assessments or referrals to support services where required.

Aims of Drug Education

We aim to give young people accurate information about drugs and help them develop the skills and attitudes to make their own healthy, safe and responsible decisions about drug use. We also aim to reduce the number of



young people misusing drugs, minimise the risk of criminalisation, and to help those concerned about drugs to get help and advice.

To achieve this, our PSHEE will help pupils to:

- Gain knowledge and understanding about the effects and risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misconceptions;
- Develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self-awareness, negotiation, finding information, help and advice;
- Develop skills to manage situations involving drugs, including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others;
- Explore their own and other people's attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences

Staff Responsible for Drugs Issues within School

The PSHE leads are responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the drug education curriculum and along with the SLT are responsible for supporting and training staff and liaising with external agencies to strengthen the curriculum delivery.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads have overall responsibility for drugs issues, including managing drug-related incidents and liaising with police; developing, monitoring and reviewing the drugs policy and liaising with external agencies to provide additional support to pupils at risk of drug misuse.

Remit and Extent of the Policy

In this school, a drug related incident refers to any possession, usage or supply of an unauthorised drug, as defined within this policy. Incidents can include emergencies, observations and discovery, disclosure, suspicion and rumour.

This school does not permit the possession, use of or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless it is an agreed, authorised legal drug and a care plan



is in place) and will investigate and respond in line with this policy to any incident which:

- takes place within the school boundaries;
- on or near the school premises;
- whilst in school uniform;
- on the journey to and from school;
- within the school day;
- on school visits (supervised or not);
- residential trips;
- work experience;
- any school social event.

These rules apply equally to staff, students, parents and carers, governors and those working in or visiting the school.

This is a smoke-free and vape-free school. Pupils, staff, parents and visitors are not allowed to smoke or vape on school premises.

In line with Behaviour in Schools Advice for Headteachers and School Staff the school may also impose sanctions on a pupil for misusing drugs outside school when pupils are:

- taking part in any school organized or school related activity
- travelling to or from school
- in some way identifiable as a pupil of the school.

The school may also impose sanctions on a pupil 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
- poses a threat to another pupil or member of the public
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.



Alcohol and Solvents

Alcohol

Alcohol is not an authorised drug for any pupil. This includes VI form pupils who are not permitted to drink alcohol at school social events or on school journeys. Staff accompanying pupils on trips are not permitted to drink when responsible for pupils. There are occasions when alcohol may be authorised, such as for school functions and staff social events.

Any adult (or staff, pupil, 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 child from the school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support. Further sanctions will be put in place which may include (but are not exclusive to) further searches, supervised breaks and lunchtimes, tutor supervision, further educational work and suspension (for incidents that are considered to be dangerous or when considered appropriate by the Headteacher)

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorizes are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them during the course of their work.

Pupils 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.

Management of Drugs in School

The school has a separate policy for the safe and secure management of prescription drugs. There are circumstances when some legal drugs (prescribed) are authorised for use in school - any pupil requiring access to prescription drugs for medical reasons will be supported. Parents and pupils must inform the school where this is needed and pupils must not be responsible for the safety of their own medication, unless previously



agreed. It must be handed in to school to be kept securely until needed in line with the above policy.

School Responses to Drug-Related Incidents

In all drug-related incidents, the following principles will apply:

- The Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)/Deputy DSL will be informed immediately;
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding a response;
- Permanent exclusion will not be the automatic response and will only be considered in the most serious Cases;
- The health and safety needs of the pupil will always come first, whilst also taking account of the health and safety needs of the school as a whole;
- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation (unless this would not be in the pupil's best interest);
- Decisions about the sanction will depend on whether the offence is one of a series or a first event, previous support has been offered to the pupil and whether the pupil was in possession or supplying. Any extenuating circumstances will also be taken into consideration;
- The Headteacher in consultation with DSL will decide whether a disciplinary and/or counselling response should follow;
- Referrals to T3 Stars Young People's Service, YOS and/or Catch 22 (exploitation support) will be offered and made where consent given.

Possible responses might be:

- Support

Support is provided for pupils who have concerns about their own or their family's drug use. We assess the welfare and support needs of the pupil and identify the most appropriate support for them. This might involve the school nurse, school counselling service, T3 Stars, Catch 22, referrals to family support services or other services providing specialist help. Support is also provided for those who have been involved in a drug-related incident, which is in breach of school rules.



- Sanctions

Where a school rule related to drug use is broken, sanctions will be given. The nature of the sanction will depend on the nature and degree of the offence. Decisions about sanctions will be made by the Headteacher and be consistent with the behaviour & positive relationships policy. The school uses a range of sanctions including withdrawal from activities, internal exclusion, suspension or permanent exclusion. The latter will be considered only in exceptional cases, such as confirmed or suspected supplying of illegal drugs. It will be used as a last resort after all other approaches have been considered.

Procedures for Managing Incidents

- Reporting a drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are reported, in the first instance, to the Headteacher and DSL.

Although there is no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police, every incident will be assessed individually and appropriate steps will be taken.

The school will always inform police immediately about any incident involving the sale or suspected sale of drugs.

The school will work with external agencies to coordinate intelligence and information regarding potential County Lines concerns.

- Recording the drug-related incident

In all drug-related incidents, the Headteacher and DSL/DDSL will decide on the responses, including the use of sanctions and/or counselling and support. However, only the Headteacher has the authority to suspend or permanently exclude a pupil.



- Medical emergencies when a student is unconscious as a result of drugs use

Staff with first aid qualifications should be called immediately, but the pupil must not be left alone. The pupil will be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called. Parents/carers will be informed and called to the school. An assessment of the incident is started, including finding out whether a substance has been taken, and evidence gathered.

- Intoxication, when a student is under the influence of a drug

The pupil will be removed to a quiet room and not left alone. The first aider and DSL/DDSL will be called. The pupil will be helped to calm down and medical assistance sought. Parents/carers will be informed and called to the school. In most cases, the pupil will then be taken home with the absence coded appropriately, if a suspension is not considered appropriate

- Discovery/observation

This refers to situations when a pupil is discovered using, supplying or holding a substance that is not permitted on school premises and which is described in this policy (suspected or confirmed).

If the substance is suspected to be illegal, staff can take temporary possession of it and it will be confiscated, in the presence of a second member of staff as witness.

The sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present and stored in a secure location (e.g. a safe or lockable container) with access limited to the Headteacher and DSL/DDSL.

The pupil(s) will be supervised within a safe space in school and an investigation undertaken, pending advice from the police.

Details of the incident will be recorded, including the police incident reference number.



The pupil's parents/carers will be asked to come into school, unless it is not in the best interests of the child to inform them.

The pupil(s) involved will be isolated whilst investigations are carried out.

If the substance is legal (but unauthorised in school), it will be disposed of or handed to the parent/carer.

- Searches

Staff are allowed to confiscate pupil's property where reasonable to do so, including substances, whether controlled or not. If a member of staff has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil is carrying illegal drugs on them or in their personal property, they will ask the pupil to voluntarily produce the substance, in the presence of two members of staff.

When a search is required, any staff involved must be authorised by the Headteacher to undertake it and, wherever possible, should be the same sex as the pupil. (Screening, Searching and Confiscation, DfE, 2018). The search will take place in school or where staff have lawful control of pupils. We will keep a record of the search and inform parent/carers if a substance is found, although there is no legal requirement to do this or to inform parents/carers before or after a search. Teachers can search pupil's locker where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that drugs have been stored there.

If consent for the search is not provided by the pupil, then the decision to search must be authorised by the Headteacher.

- Dealing with drug-taking materials

School site staff make regular checks of the school grounds and know how to deal with drug-taking materials, including needles, in line with health and safety advice. Pupils are taught what to do if they come across needles on the school premises and know not to touch needles and to inform a member of staff immediately. Our school site has a



number of public right of ways that border our school premises, so we recognise that these areas should be checked regularly.

- Disclosure

When a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs, or is concerned about someone else's drug use, staff will be non-judgemental and caring and will show concern for the student's welfare. Pupils know that teachers cannot promise total confidentiality if safeguarding concerns are raised and/or if further support is to be considered such as referral to a drug service or counselling service. Information about the pupil will only be given to key staff and no one else unless the pupil gives their consent. The DSL will coordinate the most appropriate support including referral to specialist services.

- Suspicion/Rumour

Staff should not assume use of drugs on the basis of rumours or behaviour alone. However, if there is a suspicion, evidence will be collected over a period of time before a decision is made to question the pupil(s) involved. This period of time does not have to be over a period of days — it can be collected in real time throughout the day. Evidence collected could be physical presentation (including smelling of particular substances such as alcohol or cannabis, for example), erratic or unusual behaviours, poor punctuality/lesson attendance, disclosures from other pupils, members of the public or family.

- Intoxicated parents/carers

Our school policy for drugs applies to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents/carers will adhere to these rules. If a parent/carer comes to school and appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to leave. If they have come to collect their child (for example, if the child is unwell), we will sensitively offer to phone for someone else to collect. If we are concerned that a pupil is in imminent danger, we will contact emergency services on 999. We will also follow our Child Protection procedures if we are concerned about risk of harm.



Child Criminal Exploitation/County Lines

When speaking with pupils and responding to any incidents involving drugs, staff will be vigilant to the pupil's vulnerability to criminal exploitation and particularly County Lines. Any concerns about a young person such as erratic school attendance and/or changes in their attitude and engagement with learning; unexplained or disproportionate access to money/expensive items; pupil being reported as missing; or where staff become aware that a pupil has several mobile phones could indicate the pupil is a victim of exploitation and must be shared with the DSL. The Governing Body of King Edward VI High School recognises that pupils who are not accessing school due to low levels of attendance or suspension are at greater risk of all forms of exploitation. Any attendance issues will be addressed in line with our Attendance Policy. Furthermore, any suspensions will be for the shortest time necessary and in line with the published Behaviour & Positive Relationships Policy. Permanent exclusion will be the last resort and only in the most serious of circumstances where no other option is available.

Confidentiality

Pupils need to be able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of young people will be central to our policy and practice, however, teachers cannot promise total confidentiality and this is made clear to pupils.

If a pupil discloses to a member of staff he/she is taking drugs or is concerned about drugs, they will refer the student to the DSL and appropriate support will be offered e.g. referral to a specialist agency. This information is given only to the DSL and the Headteacher. If staff are concerned that a child's safety is at risk they will follow the school's child protection procedures. The school displays information about local drug and alcohol services that offer confidential information, advice and treatment.

Involving the Police

In most cases a drug-related incident will be a school, rather than a police matter. However, we work closely with Staffordshire Police and will contact them immediately if an illegal (or suspected illegal) drug has been found or illegal drug dealing is taking place. We will only call 999 in an emergency.



We follow the guidance set out in NPCC 'When to Call the Police: Guidance for Schools and Colleges' (202).

Discrimination and Protected Characteristics

When considering the response to an incident, the Headteacher must consider whether:

- The pupil has needs which impact on their understanding or behaviour e.g. ADHD, ASD;
- The pupil has or may have anxiety or mental health needs which are impacting on their behaviour. The Headteacher must ensure that the school's policy and their decision does not discriminate and that due consideration has been given to the pupil's protected characteristics, situation and circumstances.

Links to Other Policies

The policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- PSHEE
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Health and Safety
- Behaviour & Positive Relationships
- Safeguarding
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions.



Appendix 1

ASSESSMENT TOOL for DSL/DDSL- POSSESSION OF DRUGS/USE OF DRUGS

Tick all that apply

- 1 Do you have reasonable grounds to believe that item was in the pupil's possession? Y N
- 2 The pupil was under the influence of an illicit substance/drugs
- 3 The pupil had drugs paraphernalia with them
- 4 The pupil made a premeditated decision to bring the Drugs into school
- 5 The pupil has previously had drugs in their possession/or been under the influence of Drugs in school
- 6 The pupil a CIN/TAC/CP and substance misuse is identified as a concern within the plan
- 7 It was a large amount or a combination of substances
- 8 It was small amount for personal consumption
- 9 The pupil was carrying the drugs for the purpose of sharing with others
- 10 The drugs were seen by /shown to/offered to other pupils
- 11 The pupil been subject to bullying /threats from others to source the drugs
- 12 The pupil bought from/was given the drugs by another pupil in school
- 13 The pupil sold drugs to other members of the school community
- 14 The pupil confirm their intention to take the drugs



15 The pupil received advice/guidance in school about the risk of Drugs (either as part of PHSE or more direct work)

16 The young person a victim of or vulnerable to Child Criminal Exploitation (County Lines)

17 The pupil attempted to conceal or hide the drugs from staff

18 The pupil was un-cooperative with the school investigation

19 The pupil has been warned about similar behaviour previously

20 The pupil understands that possession of drugs is against school rules

21 The pupil has not shown remorse /distress/regret about their actions or the incident

22 The pupil does not agree to a referral to T3 Stars

The above matrix is intended as a means of evaluation a situation and to enable a rational, proportional response to any incident involving illicit substances. Wherever possible young people will be supported to remain in their current setting and provided with help, advice and guidance from adults they know and trust. Continuity of a school placement is a significant safeguarding feature and a key factor in reducing the risk of future drug taking or criminal exploitation.