

OVERTON GRANGE SCHOOL POLICY (Non-statutory)

DRUG & SUBSTANCE AWARENESS

Govs. Comm. CURRICULUM & STUDENT

Principles

To ensure that the school follows the guidance in the **DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for schools 2012**.

The majority of young people of school-age have never used an illegal drug. There are complex motivations behind a young person's decision to first experiment with alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs. However, very few of those who experiment with illegal drugs will go on to become problem drug users.

Many young people will at some stage be occasional users of drugs for medicinal purposes and many will try tobacco or alcohol. Some will continue to use alcohol and tobacco on a regular basis into their adult lives.

Many students 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.

Where the policy refers to drugs, this includes alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances, volatile substances and other unauthorised substances (prohibited items), unless otherwise specified.

What is the policy going to do?

This policy will:

- reflect the whole school ethos and the whole school approach to health
- ensure the safety and wellbeing of the whole school community
- clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use the school
- clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

This policy is based on advice from the Department of Education, namely:

[DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for schools 2012](#)

To whom does this policy apply?

This policy applies to:

- Staff
- Students
- Volunteers
- Contractors
- Visitors
- Parents/Carers
- Governors

It includes journeys to and from school in school uniform, work experience, residential trips and college courses. Students must not bring controlled drugs, cigarettes (including e-cigarettes and vapes), tobacco and/or cigarette papers, lighters, matches, or alcohol onto the school site at any time (see list of prohibited items, Behaviour Policy, Appendix C).

Alcohol may only be brought onto the school site by those 18 year olds and over with the Headteacher's permission. An example where permission may be granted could be an evening/weekend social event.

Staff on school day trips and residential visits (domestic or abroad) must not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or other substances. Staff on school trips must not smoke or use e-cigarettes or vapes in the presence of students.

Overton Grange School actively opposes the possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs.

What do we mean by 'drugs'?

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is 'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'. The term 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers).
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

Medicines

Some students may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. Staffing, administration, storage and record keeping procedures are all clearly set out in the school's ***Medical Needs Policy***

The school's Medical Needs Policy also sets out the circumstances in which a student may take non-prescribed/over-the-counter medicines, such as those providing relief from period pains or hay fever. School staff do not give non-prescribed medication to students.

Volatile substances

Some solvents or hazardous chemicals are legitimately used by school staff or students. These substances are stored securely (in line with COSHH regulations) and managed to prevent inappropriate access or use. Arrangements are set out in the school's health and safety policy.

Alcohol

Adult use and consumption of alcohol at school can only be authorised by the Headteacher. In keeping with our duty of care, employees are not permitted to consume alcohol during the school day, or at any time when they will be subsequently supervising children.

The school recognises that there may be occasions when a member of staff may experience difficulties in relation to alcohol use and misuse outside of school. Staff are encouraged to discuss this with line managers so that support can be put in place. If necessary, an Occupation Health Referral can be actioned.

Tobacco

Overton Grange School is a non-smoking site. This includes the use of e-cigarettes or vapes

Substance Use and Misuse Education / Training

	KS3	KS4	KS5
CPSHE	<p>Drugs awareness lessons on Alcohol, including risk & mental/physical effects.</p> <p>Drugs awareness lessons on Smoking, Vaping, including risk & mental/physical effects.</p> <p>Drugs awareness lessons on Illegal drugs, including Edibles and their classifications. Also look at the mental and physical implications.</p> <p>How the media portrays alcohol.</p> <p>How the media portrays smoking.</p> <p>How the media portrays drugs</p> <p>Youth crime and drugs. (including sentencing)</p> <p>Y8 assessment project: raising awareness of drugs</p>	<p>Drugs and current legislation.</p> <p>Impact of drugs on families and individuals. The societal impact of drugs/alcoholism.</p> <p>Global impact of drug trade.</p> <p>The impact of smoking, vaping, drugs and alcohol on mental well-being and general health.</p> <p>Impact/Effects/Cost of drugs</p> <p>Impact/Effects/Cost of alcoholism</p> <p>Impact/Effects/Cost of smoking</p> <p>Regular use of 'Drug Box' to familiarise groups with drugs, their</p>	<p>Drugs and Substance misuse awareness – delivered by outside agencies.</p>

	Regular use of 'Drug Box' to familiarise groups with drugs, their names, impact etc.	names, impact etc.	
Science	Drugs – alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and other illegal drugs.	Alcohol and tobacco	
PE		<p>The dangers inherent in using drugs to improve physical performance.</p> <p>Why do sports performers use drugs</p> <p>Types of drugs used</p> <p>Impact on performers and sport</p>	<p>Ethics in sport</p> <p>Drugs and doping in sport – consequences to performers, sport and society</p> <p>Use of ergogenic aids; potential benefits and risks</p> <p>Pharmacological aids: anabolic steroids, erythropoietin (EPO), human growth hormone (HGH)</p> <p>physiological aids: blood doping, intermittent hypoxic training (IHT), cooling aids</p> <p>Drugs and doping in sport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • legal supplements versus illegal drugs and doping • reasons why elite performers use illegal drugs/doping • consequences/implications to: society, sport, performers • strategies to stop the use of illegal drugs and doping
Health and Social Care		Different substances – looking at the impact on health and well-being (physical, intellectual, emotional and social factors)	Assessing physical and psychological impact of various substances on health and well-being.
Psychology			The effect of recreational drugs on the transmission process in the central nervous system. This includes the dangers of drug use.

Needs led CPD opportunities are available for front-line staff (First Aiders, SLT, Heads of Year) in relation to substance use and misuse and associated social issues amongst children, young

people and adults. There can also be CPD opportunities available for teaching staff delivering substance misuse education to enable them to be confident, competent and effective providers.

Prevention/Support: early intervention

Overton Grange School is aware that some students are more vulnerable to drug misuse and other social problems and aims to reduce the impact of risk factors and strengthen protective factors by promoting:

- supportive and safe relationships
- regular school attendance
- the ability to cope well with academic and social demands at school
- strong and supportive social networks and good social skills
- realistic self-awareness and self-esteem
- a good knowledge of the effects and risks of drugs
- a good knowledge of general health and how to ensure good mental health
- a good knowledge of how to access help and information
- work with parents/carers, particularly around communication and setting boundaries
- participation in extra-curricular activities
- counselling and other support mechanisms.

Management of Incidents

Drug Incidents will be dealt with fairly and competently and with due regard for the facts as they present themselves as well as the health, pastoral, educational and welfare needs of any person involved. In the first instance the possibility of a **medical emergency** will be considered

The senior members of staff with responsibility for drug related incidents will be the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher. All drug related incidents will be reported to them and they will be responsible for co-ordinating the most appropriate response.

A **'Drugs Incident'** is one which involves suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs. They could fit into the following categories:

- drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises
- a student demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age
- a student is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia
- a student is found to be supplying drugs on school premises
- a student, parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- a staff member has information that the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs is taking place in the local area
- a student discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs.

Parents/carers will be informed about a drugs incident, unless this would jeopardise the safety of the student

Although not an exhaustive list, possible responses include:

- early intervention and targeted prevention
- referral to support in school
- referral to outside agencies

- counselling
- suspension
- managed move
- permanent exclusion
- involvement of the police, including the School's Police Team
- referral to Children's Social Care

Some responses may serve to enforce and reinforce school rules. Any sanctions should always be justifiable in terms of:

- the seriousness of the incident
- the identified needs of the student and the wider school community
- consistency with published school rules, codes and expectations
- consistency with disciplinary action for breaches of other school rules (such as theft, violence, bullying).

If any member of staff has concerns about any drug related incident, then they should immediately inform a member of the Senior Leadership Team

Confiscations

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug providing that all reasonable steps are taken to destroy the drug or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it.

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected illegal drugs staff will:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout (see procedures on searching students – Behaviour Policy, Appendix C).
- Inform the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher immediately about any items that are confiscated, who will then:
 - seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present.
 - store it in a secure location, such as the school safe or other lockable container with access limited to two senior members of staff.
 - without delay notify the police, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the student from whom the drugs were taken, but it is the school's policy to do so. Where a student is identified the police will then follow their own set internal procedures.
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number.
- inform parents/carers, unless this would jeopardise the safety of the student.
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response.

School staff should not attempt to analyse or taste unknown substances. Police can advise on analysis and formal identification, although this is normally carried out only if it will be required as evidence within a prosecution. If formal action is to be taken against a student, the police should make arrangements for them to attend a local police station accompanied by an appropriate adult for interview. Only in exceptional circumstances should arrest or interviews take place at school. An appropriate adult should always be present during interviews, preferably a parent/carer or duty social worker.

Drug Misuse Outside the School Premises

In line with [Behaviour in schools Advice for headteachers and school staff \(September 2022\)](#) 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.

Criteria for success

- All students will receive appropriate education on drug awareness.
- A co-ordinated CPSHE programme evaluated by staff and students.
- Variety of appropriate support available to meet identified individual needs.
- Incidents dealt with appropriately.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Sanctions log
- Incident logs
- Search log
- Exclusions records
- Referrals to agencies

Consultation

The policy was discussed and agreed with Heads of Year, SLT and trade union representatives in September 2022 before going to the Governors' Curriculum and Student Committee.

Links with other policies/procedures:

- Behaviour
- Child Protection – including information sharing
- Exclusion
- Medical Needs

- Positive Handling
- Wellbeing
- Procedures on searching students
- Relevant personnel policies and procedures, including Staff Conduct and Staff Discipline

Approved by:	Curriculum and Student	Date: 13 th October 2023
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