

High Storrs School

DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY



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High Storrs Drugs & Substance Abuse Policy

Rationale for the policy

This policy is produced to clearly inform all students in the school community about the school's approach to drugs. It is based on the values of the school and reflects the concept of High Storrs School as a learning community. The school believes that education about drugs is the key route to awareness amongst all members of the school community that will enable all to make appropriate and socially acceptable, safe and healthy choices. Please note there is a separate *Substance Abuse Policy* for staff and adult volunteers of High Storrs School.

The policy relates to drugs as: 'illegal substances', solvents and age restricted substances such as alcohol and tobacco. The policy sets out the legal requirements of the school in matters relating to drugs and clarifies the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community. The policy also aims to provide the backdrop against which the health, safety and welfare of all students is of paramount importance.

The policy aims to enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved. The purpose of the policy is also to ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school.

The policy provides a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal or unauthorised drugs. The school's approach to drugs education policy is found within the Citizenship and PSHE policy and contributes towards the school's approach to moral, spiritual, cultural, mental and physical development of students. It also prepares students at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It should be read in conjunction with this policy.

Location and dissemination of the policy

The policy will be accessible on the school website and on hard copy from the school, on request. Other policies within the raft of policies relating to behaviour make reference to drugs. The school drugs policy will form part of the induction of students and staff new to the school and will be available to staff on the intranet and staff handbook.

Local and National Guidance that informs the policy

This policy is informed by guidance from the Department for Education and Skills: and by a UK law.

Application of this policy

This policy applies to all students of High Storrs School from years 7 – 13 (including Y14 where applicable). This also applies to any dual registered students receiving education at High Storrs School.

The policy applies to all students at any time whilst engaged in the business of the school. This covers both on site and off site activities such as field trips, foreign exchanges, school visits of any kind, work experience; alternative provision (off-site education); Post 16 provision in another school, extra-curricular activities or the journey to and from school.

The definition of ‘drugs’ and ‘substances’

Drugs: *‘A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.’*

(The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

Substances: *any substance which, when ingested, alters perception and how the body works.*

These definitions includes all illegal substances, alcohol, tobacco, solvents, medicines, legal highs and other substances taken for their effect on the mind or body.

For the purpose of this policy the terms ‘drugs’ and ‘drug education’ refer to:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and Psychoactive Substances Act 2016)
This includes cannabis which despite reclassification continues to be a controlled drug and thus an illegal substance. (See Section 10 for a list of commonly available ‘illegal’ substances), and Psychoactive Substances.
- All drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled such as ‘vaping’), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrates (known as poppers)
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

The school’s stance towards drugs, health and the needs of pupils

The use, provision, possession or sale of any drugs, solvents or alcohol, as described above is unacceptable behaviour. The use, provision or sale of any ‘drug’ creates a potentially serious health and safety risk to any member of the school community involved. The impact of the use of any ‘drug’ on the behaviour, mood, attitude and concentration of the user also has the potential to cause disruption, distress and anxiety to other members of the school community.

There will always be an investigation into inappropriate behaviour involving the use, provision, possession or sale of and ‘drug’. The Code of Conduct, when applied in the above circumstances will lead to the use of sanctions. The appropriate sanction will be determined paying due regard to the context of the behaviour, the impact of the behaviour on others and the status of the behaviour. (See the section on Police Involvement.) Exclusion from school and the involvement of the police for students should be expected in cases where ‘drugs’ are sold by anyone on the school premises. (See the [Suspensions and Exclusion policy](#))

Staff with key responsibility for drugs

The Head teacher has ultimate responsibility for creating a safe environment for learning and teaching. On a day to day basis this responsibility is delegated to a range of other staff; Senior Leadership Team, Pastoral Support Manager, The Heads of House / Heads of Year and

Student Support Assistants have responsibility for ensuring that all students adhere to the requirements of this policy. The Head teacher has direct responsibility for ensuring that all staff adhere to this policy.

Staff support and training

The implementation of this policy will only be effective if there is a proper induction and drug awareness training of all new staff and regular updating of drug awareness training of key personnel. A record of appropriate training for those with specific responsibility for the implementation of this policy is a requirement of the school CPD Co-ordinator. Continuing Professional Development for those teachers who deliver Drug Education is of fundamental importance and is the responsibility of the CPD co-ordinator to ensure.

Management of drugs at school The Definition of a Drugs Incident

The school identifies a drug incident following suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal or other unauthorised drugs.

Such as:-

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises;
- A student displays behaviour that clearly indicates the use of drugs; this may be during school hours or whilst on school business e.g. educational visits
- A student is found in possession of an illegal substance or associated paraphernalia;
- A student is found to be supplying drugs on the school premises;
- A staff member has information that the illegal sale or supply of drugs is taking place in the local area;
- A student discloses that they or a family member are misusing drugs.

Offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act

- Possession;
- Possession with intent to supply another person a controlled drug, whether for payment or not. This includes packaging drugs and 'looking after' drugs for another person;
- Supplying another person with a controlled drug. This includes giving or selling, including friends;
- Supplying drug paraphernalia, the only exceptions being matches and a tourniquet;
- Production, cultivation or manufacture of controlled drugs, this includes growing cannabis plants.;
- Allowing premises to be used for supply, production or cultivation of a controlled drug, including allowing school premises to be used for the smoking of cannabis.

The Management of Drugs Incidents

The management of drug incidents is the responsibility of the Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher and may be delegated to an Assistant Head teacher. Staff who encounter any drug incident should immediately inform any one of the above. The authority to deal with a drug incident will be taken by whichever of the above takes responsibility for the management of the incident.

The first priority in managing a drugs incident is **SAFETY**. If medical assistance is required this should be summoned immediately with all other aspects of the incident being put aside until this has been achieved. The school will be mindful of the need for a degree of

confidentiality to be maintained throughout the management of a drug incident but cannot promise total confidentiality because of the potential need to involve the police or ambulance service. If a student discloses previously unknown information and asks that it should not be passed on, the request will be honoured unless it compromises the professional responsibility of the school in relation to:

- Child protection
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referral to external services.

The school will make every effort to secure the student's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information.

Investigating a drug incident

There are a number of considerations to make:-

- What does the student/ member of staff have to say?
- Is this a one-off incident or longer-term situation?
- Is the drug legal, age restricted or illegal?
- What quantity of the drug is involved?
- What was the student's motivation?
- Does the student understand the risk to the health and safety of others?
- What are the student's home circumstances?
- Does the student know and understand the school policy on drugs?
- Where does the incident appear on a scale from 'possession of a small quantity' to 'persistent supply for profit'?
- If the supply of drugs is suspected did the student act independently?
- If during the course of the investigation, it seems appropriate to involve the police then the detailed questioning should cease.

If, as a result of a drug incident, a student's safety is under threat, it may be necessary to invoke child protection procedures via the designated teacher responsible for child protection. In such circumstances sensitive information should not be passed on against the wishes of a student unless in exceptional circumstances. These exceptions are defined by a moral and professional duty to act:

- Where there is a child protection issue
- Where a life is in danger.

Illegal drugs have no place in school. In law, the school commits an offence under Section 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 if cannabis is smoked or otherwise used on school premises. School staff will take temporary possession of an illegal drug or a substance suspected of being an illegal drug **if** by so doing this prevents an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug. All reasonable steps will be taken to destroy the drug or deliver it to the police. Where ever possible the police will be involved in the disposal of all illegal drugs found in school.

If a teacher takes possession of a suspected or actual illegal substance;

- a second adult should be present throughout;
- the substance should be sealed in a plastic bag, with details of time, place and witness recorded on the bag;

- the substance should be securely stored in the school safe;
- notify the police that a drug has been taken from a student;
- record full details of the incident, including a police incident number if appropriate;
- inform parents/carers unless this would jeopardise the safety of the pupil.

No member of the school staff should attempt to analyse or taste unknown substances. The police will authorise this if a prosecution is pending.

Searches of School and Personal Property

Where the possession of drugs is suspected the best outcome is for the person concerned to hand over voluntarily any drug in question. If this is not the case it may be felt necessary by a member of the school staff to conduct a search of school property and personal property. Please refer to the [searching and screening policy](#) for all details of searching and screening students.

The Use of Sniffer Dogs

The Head teacher, with the consent of the school governors, is allowed to invite the police to bring sniffer dogs into school in response to a suspected drug incident. There are a number of considerations to be made before this can take place.

The position of the school in the community should be given careful consideration. If the police use sniffer dogs without the authority of a police warrant the school should exercise extreme caution and consider whether such action:-

- is consistent with the pastoral responsibility of the school in creating a supportive environment;
- is culturally insensitive
- will lead to labelling and could damage the pupils concerned; will result in appropriate support for those pupils most in need;
- is feasible and the effective use of school and police resources.

Although Illegal substances are not allowed in school there are instances where other drugs may legitimately be in school.

The Management of Medicines in School

Some students may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. The school has guidance on: 'The Administration of Medicines in Schools' which should be followed. The key points of the guidance should be known by all staff who may come into contact with prescribed medicines in school:

- Managing medicines in school is not part of a teacher's duties. Only support staff specifically employed to manage medicines should regard this as part of their contract;
- The administration of medicines should always be in accordance with the prescriber's instructions, as displayed on the container;
- Medicine's can be carried by those who are dependent upon them, such as asthma inhalers. Those who carry prescribed medicines must be informed of their responsibility to ensure that no other person uses their medicine;

Non-prescribed medicines should not be administered to students by staff. (See 'The Administration of Medicines in Schools' as stated above)

The Management of Volatile Substances in School

The Health & Safety Guidance on the safe storage of hazardous chemicals should be noted by all those who may have occasion to deal with solvents or other hazardous chemicals.

The Use of Alcohol on School Premises

The use of alcohol by any member of the school community whilst the school is in session is unacceptable. This applies to on and off site activities and includes students who are over the age of 18 and are legally allowed to purchase and consume alcohol.

The Use and Management of Tobacco, E cigarettes and Vapes on School Premises

The school is a no smoking site. Please refer to the [no smoking policy](#).

Police involvement

The police are not usually involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but the school can inform the trading standards or the police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco products (including e cigarette and vapes), alcohol, solvents or volatile substances to students, in school or in the local area.

The school is not obliged in law to inform the police about an incident involving illegal drugs but it is most likely to do so in accord with the partnership that exists between the school and the police. The school will usually contact a Community Police Officer for advice in dealing with drug incidents. The school will usually encourage the Community Police Officer to visit the student and the student's parent/carer following involvement in an incident involving an illegal drug.

If formal action is to be taken against a student the police should arrange for them to attend a local police station. Only in exceptional circumstances should a pupil be arrested on school site. During police interview of a student a responsible adult should always be present. If the parent/carer is not available a senior member of the school staff will accompany the student to the police station.

Support for students both inside and beyond the school

Whatever the school response to a drug incident involving a student, it should be proportionate to the offence and should reinforce the values and ethos of the school. The range of possible responses could include:

- Early intervention and targeted prevention through the drug education provision in Citizenship & PSHE, individual support programmes for those known to be at risk.
- Counselling from the school (teachers, mentors, Learning Support, pastoral staff) or from outside agencies (a list of local outside agencies, young people's websites is available in school) Counselling is only appropriate if the student chooses to access it.
- Referral to other agencies for help and support such as
 - The Corner
 - MAST (LA)
 - Sheffield Futures
 - CYT (Community Youth Team)

- Social Services (via the named Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Behaviour Support Plan – drawn up with school, the student and the parent, to encourage new and more appropriate behaviours and identifying clearly the conditions under which the student may remain at the school. It involves regular monitoring of progress. The use of Seclusion may be appropriate as part of this process. Targeted drug education may also be part of this programme.
- Suspension – in line with the [Suspensions and Exclusion policy](#)
- An offsite direction – short term placement at another educational provider
- A managed move to another school
- Permanent Exclusion – in line with the [Suspensions and Exclusion policy](#)

Involvement of parents/carers

The school will always seek to work in partnership with parents and unless there is clearly a danger to the student the parent/carer will be informed about a drug incident at the time of the event. Professional judgement will be used as to the exact timing of the contact with parents/carers so that any management of a drug incident is not compromised but if the school is considering involving the police the parent/carer will be informed immediately.

Confidentiality

All matters of a sensitive nature will be dealt with confidentially in so far as it is possible. The minimum number of staff will be involved at the investigation stage and the investigation of a drug incident will not be discussed more widely than is absolutely necessary.

The role of governors

Governors will be responsible for adopting the Drugs Policy and *may* nominate one governor to take a particular interest in the implementation of the Drugs Policy and the Drugs Education Programme.

Governors, particularly those who may be called upon to be part of the 'exclusion' process, should have an up-to-date knowledge of drugs.