

Drugs Policy

This policy should be read with reference to the New Reflexions Drugs and substances procedures.

Definition of Drugs:

In this policy the use of the term drug refers to any substance which when absorbed into the body, alters normal bodily function. In this process the drug may change the way a person feels, thinks or behaves.

Prescription drugs may be on school premises and in this case the medication policy should be referred to.

School Ethos:

As a school we wish to educate our students in a safe, supportive environment, to make healthy and safe choices. The school has a zero tolerance policy towards illegal drug use.

Purpose of this Policy:

1. To provide guidelines regarding KS3 & 4 drugs education.
2. To develop teaching staff's confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs.
3. To create a safe and supportive learning environment.
4. To ensure that students are protected from harm.
5. To ensure that those for whom drugs are a concern, receive appropriate support.
6. To 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.

Drugs education:

Drug education at The Evolution and Vocational Centre may take place on an adhoc basis through day to day conversations but will also occur through the taught curriculum in PSHE lessons. The purpose of this teaching is to:

- Increase knowledge and understanding, clarifying misconceptions about: the short and long-term effects of drugs, laws relating to drugs, school policy relating to drugs, the impact of drugs on families, communities, and personal behaviour, the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers, and the moral, social, and emotional issues surrounding drugs.
- Develop young people's personal and social skills to make informed decisions to stay safe and healthy including finding information and advice and devising coping strategies.
- Enable young people to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and users.

The content and preparation for taught drugs education is explained in "Drugs: Guidance for schools" and online. Since this area of education is constantly developing and changing it is vital that those delivering drugs education keep up to date and refer back to guidance on a regular basis. Where appropriate outside specialists should also be brought into school to provide

additional information to students.

Staff Training and Responsibilities:

As a company, New Reflexions makes available regular training regarding drugs awareness. School staff can be included in this training on a rolling basis as appropriate. The person with overall responsibility for dealing with drugs issues in school is the Head teacher, but s/he will act in liaison with the appropriate care manager and take advice from appropriate sources.

Dealing with Drug Related Incidents:

The school will operate a zero-tolerance policy towards illegal drug use, possession or supply on the premises.

When dealing with drug-related incidents school staff should refer to the DfE and ACPO Drugs Advice for Schools September 2012. This gives clear information relating to informing others and appropriate responses. It will also be necessary to take into consideration any previous involvement and whether YOT's may already be involved with the young person. Where students are looked after it is of paramount importance to inform the social worker of the situation.

Searching and Confiscation

Advice on searching and confiscations can be found in "Screening, searching and confiscation; advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies" DfE Feb 2014.

Searching

School staff can search a pupil for any item if the student agrees.

Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search students or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item. If the young person refuses to be searched or to empty their pockets or bag and there is a strong suspicion, school staff should contact the police in order to deal with the incident. Prohibited items are:

- knives or weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, or
- to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil).

If the young person consents to turn out their pockets/bag it should be done in the following manner:

- a second member of staff should be present to witness the turning out
- the search should be carried out in a private place

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- only outer garment pockets should be turned out
- anything found must be recorded and the signature of the young person should be obtained if possible
- Parents/Guardians of under 18s must be informed of the search - whether or not anything is found.

Confiscation

School staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search. They can also seize any item, however found, which they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline, in the case of the Evolution Centre this could include devices which can be used to contact undesirable people or which allow the use of social media.

Following a search, whether or not anything is found, the school will make a record of the person searched, the reason for the search, the time and the place, who was present and note the outcomes and any follow-up action, although there is no legal requirement to do this.

Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Where the person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

Young people need to be informed that any drugs found on themselves will be handed to the police and that their names will be passed over.

Handling Illegal Substances:

Section 5 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 makes lawful provision for a person, in order to prevent the commission or continuance of an offence, to take possession of a controlled drug and either destroy it as soon as reasonably practicable, or hand it to a police officer for identification and destruction. However, this Section of the law does **not** make it legal to possess a controlled drug under these circumstances.

Any illegal substances found by teaching staff under any circumstances must be handed over to the police at the earliest possible opportunity. The find must be witnessed by at least one other staff member in addition to the finder, the fact recorded and the drug held in the school safe until the police have dealt with the matter.

Be sure to include the following information:

- description of item
- time, date and place of seizure
- full details from whom item seized and under what circumstances
- details of member of staff seizing the item
- signatures of witness(es)

If the police cannot attend quickly enough to remove the substance before the close of the day, the person in charge should inform the police that, in order that they are not breaking the law by possessing drugs on school premises, they will be taking the drug to the nearest police station. They should give full details of their mode of transport and route and the name of the officer or number of the recorded message line they contacted to inform them of this course of action.

Assessing “Significant Harm:”

If the school becomes aware of student drug use they must principally consider the health and safety of the young person when thinking about how to respond to a disclosure. The decision will be informed by the Head teacher’s/staff’s professional judgment, and their knowledge of the young person and their situation. If the young person is at immediate risk of significant harm the school will make a child protection referral. In less serious situation and when students are in care the social worker should be informed and actions taken to support and educate the young person. Where children are not in care and would not be placed at risk by the sharing of information then the parents should be informed. The school should seek appropriate support to support and educate the young person.

Confidentiality:

Information about drug use or incidents where drug paraphernalia is found must remain confidential to the young person. School staff may hold this information in the interest of ensuring vigilance, however care staff and other students should be unaware.

Policy reviewed September 2018

Drug- Related Incident Report Form

Drug-Related Incident Report Form	
Author of Report:	Date Report Completed:
1. Incident Details	
Date of Incident:	Time of Incident:
Name of Pupil:	Year:
Is this the first incident? YES / NO	If NO, how many other incidents:
Suspected Drug Involved:	Sample Drug Found: YES / NO
If found, where retained:	Name of Witness:
2. Brief Description of Incident	
3. Additional External Support	
First Aid given: YES / NO	First Aid given by:
Ambulance called by: YES / NO	Called by:
Parent/Carer/SW to be called: YES / NO	Parent/Carer/SW to be called by:
Other contacts required: YES / NO	Who?: