



Drug Awareness Policy

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AUTHOR	SLT
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REVIEWED BY	WSC

Changes, additions and comments to existing policy

This policy was reviewed in Autumn 2022.

Additions include:

- Updated references to relevant policies
- Updated references to key documents
- Further clarity of the scope of the policy
- Outlining a definition of drug paraphernalia and associated examples
- Outlining what a drug incident may be
- Updated references to online assessments
- Outlining timescale for review
- Additional Appendix outlining useful organisations.

1. Dissemination of the policy

Copies of the policy will be available from the school office and relevant extracts of the policy will be published in:

- the staff handbook
- the school website

In addition, further awareness for colleagues is raised via staff and email briefings and CPD sessions.

2. Links with other policies

This policy has been developed as part of a whole school approach to health and wellbeing with a focus on drug issues and should be read in conjunction with the following school statements and policies:

- School code of conduct
- Behaviour Policy
- Exclusion Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Equality Policy and Objectives
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- A letter about the use of medication in school
- Children with Medical Conditions Policy
- PSHCEe
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy
- Parent Code of Conduct
- Guidance on visitors and visitor protocol
- Educational Visits

3. Local and National Guidance/context

The policy has been developed and updated with reference to recent guidance:

- [Drug Advice for schools 2012](#)
- [Behaviour in schools: advice for Headteachers and school staff 2022](#)
- [Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools 2022](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and student referral units in England, including student movement - 2022](#)
- [Use of reasonable force in schools](#)
- [Supporting students with medical conditions at school](#)
- [NC science](#)
- [PSHCEe Association SOW](#)
- [Delivering effective drug education in the classroom](#)

The policy supports the statutory role of schools to promote students' well-being and the government's [Drug Strategy](#) 2022.

The UNCRC principles and values underpin the schools approach to PSHCEe and drugs. Articles 2, 3, 12, 13, 29, 33 and 40 are particularly relevant to this policy and are reflected in the approach to drug education and the management of incidents.

4. The purpose of this policy is to:

- clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- reinforce and safeguard the health, wellbeing and safety of the students and the school community
- clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/ carers, external agencies and the wider community

- give guidance to staff on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- enable staff to safely manage drugs or drug paraphernalia on school premises and any incidents that occur with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school's approach to drug education and its management of incidents

5. Applicability and scope

The policy applies to all students in the school and members of the school community. Any professional misconduct relating to drugs will be dealt with according to the internal rules of the school (and conditions of service) and dealt with by the Headteacher and Governing Body. The policy applies to:

- situations on the school premises, including building and grounds
- situations offsite that compromise the health and safety of students at the school
- offsite activities, visits and school trips including residentials, work experience
- times when the school has a responsibility of 'duty of care'
- adults involved with the school e.g. external agencies, visitors, adults supporting school trips.

6. Definitions and terminology:

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 **drug** in this policy refers to all legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances; psychoactive substances (legal highs); over the counter and prescription medicines and all illegal drugs.

By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as vapes, cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

7. School stance

The school is committed to the health, welfare and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing. The school aims to provide a school ethos, environment and curriculum where students are able to develop self- confidence, take responsibility and make informed, healthy and safe choices.

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised substances within the school boundaries is unacceptable. In providing drugs education and responding to incidents involving drugs, our first concern is the pastoral care and health and safety of students.

Park High School is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to incidents, seeks to work in line with local and national guidance. A member of the SLT will normally be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher. Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance related problems. **Each case will be assessed and levels of sanctions may vary according to the seriousness of the incident and the student's involvement.**

- A drug incident may be any of the following (this list is non-exhaustive):
- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on or around the school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on or around the school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on or around the school premises

- Supply of drugs on or around the school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents, staff or other students using drugs
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamourising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances.

In line with recent legislation the school reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal, a banned item or dangerous. Please see the school Behaviour Policy and [Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools 2022 for further information.](#)

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school may wish to contact a police officer for discussion. Illegal substances will be legally destroyed or handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored. Parents will normally be informed (for a student) and other professionals such as the LA, Youth Service, Police, GP, Social Services or consulted as appropriate.

At Park High School the welfare of the student is paramount. We maintain that constructive strategies that enable students to continue to benefit from continued education are preferable. Following actions to preserve safety, the health & emotional needs of students will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system, to ensure a caring response to students in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or their parents'/carers'. Such interventions may include consultation with parents/carers and other agencies, possible case conferences and subsequent referral. Please see Appendix A for a list of useful organisations.

8. Members of staff with key responsibilities for this policy are:

- the Headteacher /Deputy Headteacher who will oversee and co-ordinate drug issues
- the SLT link for PSHCEe will oversee the drug education programme.
- The AHT with responsibility for Safeguarding will work with other members of the pastoral team to support students with substance concerns
- The dissemination of drug awareness education is led by the PSCHEe coordinator, supported by KS3 and KS4 post-holders.

9. Good Drug Education can help reduce harmful use of legal and illegal drugs among young people and enable those who have concerns to seek help. It makes a major contribution to promoting the safety and health and wellbeing of young people and is an important part of the PSHCEe programme.

9.1. Aims and objectives of drug education

We aim to provide planned and structured learning opportunities to help students make informed choices about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and provide a curriculum that will enable them to develop and practise their **skills**, increase **knowledge and understanding** and consider and debate **attitudes** towards drugs and drug related issues.

The **objectives** of the programme are to:

- promote students' self esteem
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- provide accurate information about drugs, their short and long term effects and risks
- help students become more self-confident and develop skills so they are able to reflect and evaluate evidence when making choices about their lives

- improve self-knowledge particularly in relation to risk taking
- develop communication, negotiation and problem solving skills
- keep themselves and others safe and encourage responsible behaviour in relation to drug use and misuse
- explore the health, social, moral, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
- enable students to identify and access sources of help and support and how to cope in an emergency.

9.2. Drug Education curriculum

The aims and objectives are fulfilled through the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, the values and ethos of the school and opportunities for extra-curricular activities. Drug education will be taught within the statutory requirements for science and the PSHCEe programmes. The PSHCEe programmes of study are based on the concepts of:

- Identity
- Relationships
- A healthy, balanced lifestyle
- Risk and safety
- Diversity and equality
- Rights, responsibilities and consent
- Change and resilience
- Power
- Career
- Democracy and justice

Concepts based on PSHCEe Association programme of study

Core Theme 1: Health and wellbeing
Core Theme 2: Relationships

Core Theme 3: Living in the wider world – Economic wellbeing and being a responsible citizen

which underpin the programme. There are also cross curricular learning opportunities e.g. through English, drama, humanities, PE and religious education.

As of 2020 Relationships and Health education will be statutory for all schools in England. Drugs, alcohol and tobacco are listed on the draft guidance for this. It is required that students should know the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.

9.3. Delivery, methodology and resources

- The programme has been developed in consultation with the students to ensure their needs are met and the programme is relevant to their age. Strategies to determine their current knowledge, needs and perceptions on drugs e.g. mind maps, quizzes, KWL, rounds, graffiti sheets, discussions are used to inform planning. Staff are sensitive to the fact that students may have varying attitudes towards drugs which are influenced by their cultural and religious backgrounds and their life experiences, values and beliefs. The programme is taught by tutors and co-ordinated by the PSHCEe subject leader.
- **The programme** is delivered using a range of learning and teaching opportunities. The establishment of a safe, secure and supportive learning environment is the basic principle of all PSHCEe lessons and particularly those which may cover sensitive issues. This is achieved through the negotiation of ground rules for each tutor group that are reviewed regularly. Active learning that involves all students and builds on what learners already know is promoted through interactive and participatory teaching strategies e.g. research, class discussion, drama, games, paired and small group work, debate, circle time, case studies, creative writing, surveys, role play, simulations, quizzes, and ICT.
- **Resources** are carefully selected to meet the needs of our students and reflect our equal opportunities policy. Any visitors brought in as part of the programme are briefed about their contribution to the drug education programme, the learning outcomes for the session and school policy and practice e.g. in relation to behaviour, PSHCEe. A teacher is always present in the classroom and sessions are evaluated. We continue to build close links with Compass, Harrow's service for young people, supporting them to tackle drug and alcohol related issues. As well as assemblies, advice and guidance

for staff and 1:1 support for students, a representative has attended parent teacher consultations.

9.4. Assessment and recording

Elements of the drug education programme that are part of National Curriculum science are assessed in accordance with the requirements of the NC. Teachers assess students' learning in PSHCEe using assessment for learning strategies that encourage students to review and reflect on their progress including peer and self-assessment, teacher observations, and by assessment of their learning measured against specific learning outcomes/success criteria. Baseline assessment strategies to identify students' needs are also implemented. Recording of assessment is related to learning outcomes which are drawn from the PSHE Association Programme of study.

9.5. Monitoring and evaluation of drug education programme

- The PSHCEe Subject Leader monitors the drug education curriculum through informal feedback from staff, year team meetings, sampling of work and talking with students, including the PSHCEe Student Advisory Panel. There is a regular cycle of lesson observations by members of the SLT as part of the whole school departmental review programme.
- Drug education is evaluated with staff through informal feedback, student evaluations take place at the end of units and through online assessments. Evaluations are used to inform future planning.

10. Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or as appropriate.

Key to abbreviations used:

ACPO: Association of Chief Police Officers

CPD: Continuing Professional Development

DFE: Department for Education

KWL: Know, wonder, learn

NC: National curriculum

PSHCEe: Personal, social, health, citizenship and economic education.

SLT: Senior Lead Teacher

Appendix A- Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.

Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems.

Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk

Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners:

Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk

Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com

Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org

Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.

Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762

Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169

Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>