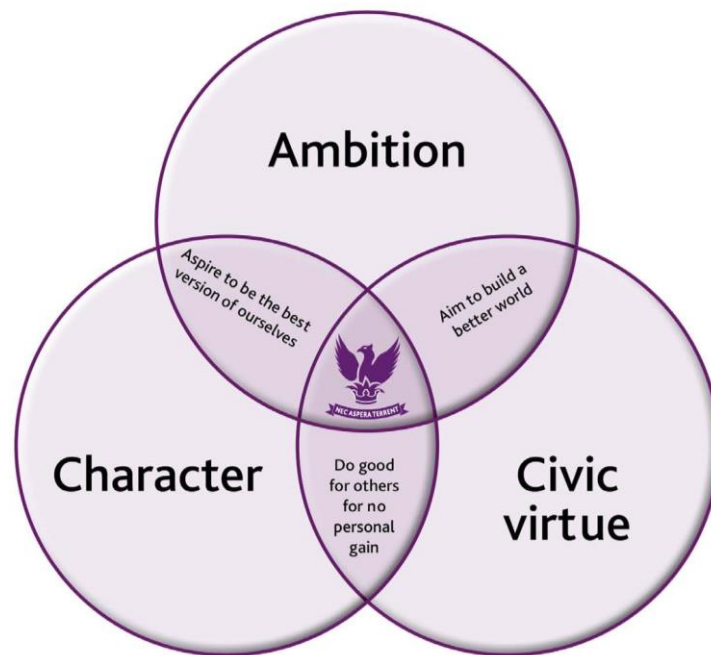




DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

POLICY ON PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES INCLUDING DRUGS



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Date of Next Review: June 2026



DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

POLICY ON PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES INCLUDING DRUGS

INTRODUCTION

This policy was developed in response to Department for Education (DfE) and the Association of chief Police Officers (ACPO). The Alcohol and Drug misuse prevention, treatment and recovery guidance (2017). This policy reflects the latest legal classifications under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, including the 2024 amendments which brought 20 new substances under control.

This policy applies to all staff, students, parents/carers, governors and any agencies working with the school.

This policy will apply within the school premises and beyond, whenever students are in the care of school staff. This includes school trips and educational visits.

- Student Council
- consultation with the school governors
- review of the drugs curriculum content with staff and students

This policy is linked to other policies including

- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Trips and Visits Policy

A copy of this policy can be found on the school website and staff shared areas. Parts of this policy may be replicated and referred to in other school publications

EDUCATION ABOUT PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

General Principles

The school believes that as part of the care and welfare of its students it has a duty to provide students with knowledge, which will enable them to develop skills and attitudes that can help them appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle both now and in the future. Drugs education should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process which continues into adult life, enabling students to make healthy, informed choices
- To improve understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse
- Enable students in need of support to come forward and for appropriate action to be taken to safeguard their well-being
- Condone neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school nor the illegal supply of these substances

- To widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues
- Recognise that whilst it is not an illegal drug, tobacco and e-liquid is an extremely harmful substance and strongly discourages its use
- Recognise that Drugs Education is a vital part of the Personal & Social Education of every student and take a pro-active stance on this matter by providing discreet curriculum time

What Does the School Mean by a Drug or Prohibited Substance?

In accordance with the **Misuse of Drugs Act 1971**, as amended in 2024, the school defines “prohibited substances” as any substance that is:

- **Class A:** Includes substances such as heroin, cocaine, ecstasy (MDMA), LSD, methadone, and newly controlled synthetic opioids like **nitazenes**
- **Class B:** Includes amphetamines, cannabis, codeine, synthetic cannabinoids, and barbiturates.
- **Class C:** Includes benzodiazepines (e.g., diazepam), anabolic steroids, and certain prescription medications when misused.

This definition also includes:

- **Alcohol, tobacco, and e-liquids**, which are legal but harmful and strictly prohibited on school premises.
- **Psychoactive substances** (formerly known as “legal highs”), many of which are now controlled under the **Psychoactive Substances Act 2016**.
- **Any substance or combination of substances** used to alter mood, perception, or behaviour, unless prescribed and used in accordance with school policy.

The school reserves the right to treat any substance as “prohibited” if its use, possession, or distribution poses a risk to health, safety, or learning.

We call all such substances “prohibited substances”.

This Policy

Evidence indicates that drug experimentation, especially with alcohol, tobacco or e-liquids is occurring at an ever-younger age. Many students are likely to be exposed to the effects and influences of drug misuse which can result in

- underachievement in school
- behavioural problems
- reduced career opportunities
- severe problems for the individual, family, and friends.

The school is therefore concerned about preparing its students for adult life by offering drug education as a component of a personal, social and health education PSHE curriculum and ensuring that such education starts when children are young and follows them developmentally throughout their school career.

The school believes that a clear and robust approach to behavioural issues relating to prohibited substances is needed to protect and educate students.

Staff will be given training and guidance on identifying and managing circumstances involving prohibited substances.

This policy therefore sets out key information on:

- 1 Education about prohibited substances
- 2 The handling of circumstances related to prohibited substances
- 3 Misconduct and sanctions related to prohibited substances

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure the effective implementation of this policy, the following roles and responsibilities are defined:

Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

- Oversee the implementation and regular review of the policy
- Ensure all staff are trained and confident in managing drug-related incidents
- Liaise with external agencies such as the Police, Social Services, and health professionals when necessary
- Ensure that appropriate sanctions and support mechanisms are applied consistently

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Lead on safeguarding concerns related to substance misuse
- Coordinate referrals to external support services
- Maintain confidential records of incidents and interventions
- Provide guidance to staff on safeguarding procedures

Teaching Staff

- Deliver the drugs education curriculum as outlined in the Scheme of Work
- Identify and report concerns related to substance misuse
- Support students in making informed, healthy choices
- Participate in relevant training and professional development

Pastoral Staff and Heads of Year

- Monitor student behaviour and wellbeing
- Provide early intervention and support for at-risk students
- Communicate with parents/carers regarding concerns or incidents
- Work closely with the DSL and SLT to manage incidents

Parents and Carers

- Support the school's stance on prohibited substances
- Engage with the school on matters related to student wellbeing
- Inform the school of any relevant concerns or issues at home

Students

- Understand and follow the school's policy on prohibited substances
- Seek help if they or someone they know is at risk
- Participate actively in drugs education and prevention activities

MANAGEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

General Principles

The school believes that as a part of the care and welfare of its students it has a duty to

- maintain a health promoting drug-free environment
- minimize the effect of drugs on students' learning
- act on suspected drug use
- provide a co-ordinated and consistent response to any drug related incidents
- use suitable sanctions where appropriate
- provide support for students with problems

Drug related incidents include

- possession of a known/unknown substance
- suspected/evidence of supplying substances
- use of a drug at school
- use of a drug outside school affecting learning
- discovery of drugs in a place on the school premises
- retrieval of drugs from such a place
- suspicion of drug use
- self-referral by students
- information on other students
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Each case should be treated in accordance with the principles above and the procedures below.

DRUGS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to incidents. If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an illegal substance it will be confiscated at the time of discovery, the Police may be informed. A member of the Senior Leadership Team 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 Head. Illegal substances will be legally destroyed or handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored. Parents will normally be informed and other professionals such as the Police, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Students should be made aware that information cannot be confidential i.e. where the student is involved in the misuse of drugs. However, they should be offered sensitive and appropriate support.

MISCONDUCT AND SANCTIONS RELATED TO PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

What is Misconduct Related to Prohibited Substances?

The school takes such misconduct extremely seriously. Whilst the sanction for such misconduct will depend on all the circumstances, the following needs to be understood.

Misconduct is not limited to the use or supply of prohibited substances on school premises.

Misconduct includes

- use, possession or supply
- any activity which facilitates or encourages use, possession or supply
- any activity which or interferes, or seeks to interfere, with the prevention or investigation of such activity
- drugs or drugs paraphernalia found on school premises
- students under the influence of drugs, or exhibiting signs of intoxication or illness
- disclosure of drug use
- involvement in 'county line' or gang-related drug issues

Examples of facilitating or encouraging

- providing information about where to obtain prohibited substances or how to use them
- actions which normalise use of prohibited substances, such as pretending to use them

Examples of interfering with prevention or investigation

Hiding prohibited substances, failing to co-operate with an investigation, warning others that an investigation is underway. These are examples only.

In line with legislation the staff at the School reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons or illegal substances.

Similarly, students can expect staff to use their legal power to restrain students if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community. Searches will be carried out with the express permission of the Head, members of the Senior Leadership Team and Parents/Carers will always be informed when this has happened.

If inappropriate articles are brought in to school or used inappropriately they may be confiscated and kept in the school safe for collection. If these items are dangerous or illegal they may be handed to the Police for safe disposal

What Sanctions are Applied for Such Misconduct?

The following are the usual sanctions.

- any student who supplies, or attempts to supply, a prohibited substance may be permanently excluded
- any student found to have possessed a prohibited substance will receive a minimum of fixed

term suspension and may be permanently excluded

- any student who engages in any activity which facilitates or encourages use, possession or supply, or which interferes, or seeks to interfere, with the prevention or investigation of such activity, is likely to receive a fixed term suspension and may be permanently excluded

Early Intervention

The school has a key role in identifying students at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish between students who require general information, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a detailed needs assessment and more intensive support. The school will also be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. Where problems are observed or suspected or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home, safeguarding procedures will be followed. This may include involving sources of support for the child such as Childrens Social Care and Youth Service

APPENDIX 1 - DRUGS EDUCATION

Aims

Knowledge, attitudes and skills

- to provide opportunities for students to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse
- to equip students with skills to avoid the misuse of drugs
- to increase knowledge of social and personal issues and attitudes relating to drug misuse and wider community matters
- to minimize the number of students who ever engage in drug misuse
- to delay the age of first use for those who do not experiment at any time
- to minimize the proportion of users who adopt particularly dangerous forms of misuse
- to encourage those who are experimenting with or misusing drugs to stop
- to enable any students who are misusing drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to seek help

Context

Drug education should be provided in Shine, science, other related curriculum areas as part of a student's preparation for adult life

- it should aim to involve parents and encourage them to take an interest
- it should be delivered in the context of school as part of the community
- it should take account of the age, sex, cultural/social background of the students at which it is targeted
- it should provide factual and accurate information backed up with consistent advice
- it should aim to teach the students the necessary personal and social skills

Full details of the programme will be found in Appendix 2 Scheme of Work

Organisation

Drugs education is co-coordinated by the Head of Shine working with the Head of Science and Head of Biology who are responsible for the overall planning, implementation and review of the programme.

The Link Governor provides liaison between the staff responsible for delivery of Drugs Education and the Governing Body.

- Delivery is through planned aspects of the Science and Shine Syllabuses. Delivery may also arise from topics in other subjects.
- The effectiveness of the Programme should be monitored and reviewed by the relevant Deputy Head and the Heads of Social Science. Where appropriate there will be consultation with teachers, students and parents.
- The Link Governor should report to the Governing Body on any issues that arise. Any proposals for major changes in the Scheme of Work should be communicated to the Governors via the Link Governor well in advance of their planned introduction.
- A variety of teaching approaches should be used. Details can be seen in the Scheme of Work.

APPENDIX 2 - SCHEMES OF WORK

Year		Content
Year 7	Shine	Smoking and tobacco facts and knowledge; personal, health and social effects and consequences; awareness of the reasons why young people smoke; develop strategies for dealing with peer influence
	Science	As part of the module on "Reproduction" students study the effect of a mother's lifestyle on the development of a foetus
Year 8	Shine	Alcohol facts and knowledge; personal, health and social effects and consequences; awareness of the reasons why people use alcohol; develop strategies for dealing with peer influence
Year 9	Shine	Facts and laws about drug, alcohol and tobacco use and misuse – developing student's knowledge of drugs, the law, personal and social consequences of misuse for themselves and others; identify and discuss the reasons why young people might choose to smoke cannabis; understand the effects that drugs, including cannabis, could have on their future plans; awareness of risky situations; assertiveness skills.
	Science	Effect of smoking on the lungs and breathing (link back to pregnancy) Effects of alcohol Types of drugs and their physiological and behavioural effects (e.g. ecstasy, marijuana, caffeine, steroids) Ethics of performance enhancing drugs in sport
Year 10-11	Shine	Revisiting the facts and laws about drug, alcohol and tobacco use and misuse; developing understanding of personal health effects and wider social issues; delivered in the context of the benefits and risk of wider health and lifestyle choices; recognising risky situation and enhanced assertiveness skills
	Science	Solvents, alcohol, tobacco and drugs effects on the body (reactions and body organs) Outlines of the effects of amphetamines, barbiturates and heroin. Statistics on smoking and lung disease. Students also look at how the safety and effectiveness of drugs are established through the drug trial process.
	GCSE PE	Students study the effects of smoking and alcohol on general health and on physical activity. They will have information on different categories of drugs; performance enhancing and recreational drugs and look at the effects they may have on health, well-being and physical performance. They will also study moral issues linked with the reasons some performers might risk using such drugs

APPENDIX 3 - LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESOURCES AND AGENCIES

FRANK

National drugs awareness campaign which raises awareness, provides information and advice to young people. Provides support to parents/carers

24 hour helpline	0300 123 6600
Website	www.talktofrank.com
e-mail	frank@talktofrank.com

National Children's Bureau

Promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across all aspects of their lives

Telephone	020 7843 6000
Website	www.ncb.org.uk

Smokefree (NHS smoking helpline)

Telephone	0300 123 1044
Website	http://smokefree.nhs.uk

EYCIS (Ealing Youth Counselling and Information Service)

Telephone	020 8825 9155
Website	www.ealingfamiliesdirectory.org.uk

Ealing Drugs Advisory Service (RISE)

Telephone	0800 195 8100
Website	www.changegrowlive.org
E-mail	EalingRISE@cgl.org.uk

Turning Point Southall

Telephone	020 7481 7600
Website	www.turning-point.co.uk
E-mail	info@turning-point.co.uk