



# **The Crossley Heath School**

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## **DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

## THE CROSSLEY HEATH SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

8225755

### DRUGS & SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

**Responsibility:** Leadership Group  
**Reviewed:** November 2019  
**Date for Review:** November 2021

#### **Purpose of the policy**

The school aims to be a community free from drug use and misuse. This policy is intended to state the school's approach to drug education and any issues related to the use of drugs and substances as they affect members of the school community, their safety, well-being and legal and statutory responsibilities. It is to support students affected by their own or others' drug misuse and as a reference point for all staff.

***The school has a zero tolerance approach to students who bring drugs/illicit substances on to school premises. These students can expect sanctions which include permanent exclusion.***

#### **Statutory duties**

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote student wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. Schools have the power and responsibility to:

- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information (*see appendix 1*).
- Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation.
- Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.

#### **Management of drugs at school**

The policy gives guidance to students, parents/carers and staff on:

- What substances are authorised on school premises and in what circumstances.
- How the health and safety of the school community is safeguarded.
- What action the school will take if a drug-related incident should occur.
- How staff should respond to drug-related issues in different contexts.

Copies of the policy are available on the website and on staff public.

#### **Drug education**

- The policy gives guidance on the role of staff in drug education, its development, delivery and monitoring.

- It provides information for students and parents/carers about the drug education students will receive.
- It provides a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of our drug education.
- It indicates how the school contributes to local and national strategies.

## Definitions

**Drug/Illicit substances:** Current educational thinking agrees that a drug is ‘any substance which when taken changes the way the body works or how a person behaves, thinks and feels’ (Drugscope). The word ‘drug’ includes:

- ‘Illicit substances’, these include alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances (“legal highs”) and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified.
- Prescribed and over-the-counter medicines

Supplying is considered to be the ***‘passing/selling of drugs or the possession of an amount of drugs above that required for personal use’***.

**School:** In managing drug-related incidents, the term ‘school’ refers to:

- The buildings and grounds within the school perimeter at times when students are authorised to be on the premises.
- Any location visited by students as part of an organised school visit, in and outside school hours on the way to & from school.
- The school’s duty of care extending “beyond the school gates”.

## Responsibilities

Any member of the teaching and non-teaching staff may be required to respond to a drug-related incident. It is important that all staff familiarise themselves with the following guidance in order to feel confident that they deal with any incident consistently and in line with school policy.

It is equally important that adults keep any incident that may arise in perspective: most students do not abuse drugs. Should an incident occur, our immediate concern is for the welfare of the student(s) involved and the school community. The fact that a drug or substance is involved should not cloud the decision to pursue our pastoral and/or disciplinary procedures. However, a student having classified drugs in school could expect to be permanently excluded.

Staff should be alert to identifiable changes in a student’s demeanour, appearance and/or behaviour (for example, having large sums of money on them, falling asleep or being over-active in class) but must bear in mind that substance use is only one of several possible explanations. Similarly, there may be other explanations for the possession of ‘drug-related paraphernalia’ such as aluminium foil, charred drinks cans, etc. However, concerns should be passed on through the pastoral system.

## Medicines

Most students may need to take medication at some time whilst they are at school. Please refer to the Medical Needs Policy.

## Alcohol

No student may have alcohol in any form on the school premises.

No student should consume alcohol in any form during the school day, on or off premises. This is considered serious misbehaviour. Members of staff should not consume alcohol or be affected by alcohol when working with students. Staff are advised that failure to observe this may result in disciplinary action.

The same applies if staff attend a school event where they are taking responsibility for students. It does not apply if staff are invited to a social event that is not organised by the school e.g. if the Year 13 Ball occurs off site after Year 13 have left or events organised where parents are present (eg. CHA events, sports presentations).

Consumption of alcohol by adults at organised social events should be at the discretion of the Head Teacher and/or governing body, in line with licensing laws.

### **Smoking and tobacco**

The minimum age for smoking is 18 and schools are subject to the same smoke free legislation as other premises.

The school is a non-smoking site (which covers the building and grounds). Students, staff and visitors are not allowed to smoke on or around the school premises, on school trips and visits or school-related social events. This includes: students in uniform around school, on journeys to and from school, and members of the Sixth Form.

No student should bring to school any tobacco product or associated items such as lighters, matches, and vaping or e-cigarette paraphernalia. This will be considered serious misbehaviour.

### **Legal drugs**

The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but schools may wish to inform trading standards or police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to students in the local area.

Students are becoming increasingly aware of, and in some cases using, new psychoactive substances (NPS). These are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs but are structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Despite being labelled as legal these substances are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess. New psychoactive substances are included in the school drug policy as unauthorised substances and treated as such.

### **Volatile substances**

Staff and Department Leaders are responsible for ensuring the safe storage and use of volatile substances in the school. Students are able to bring the following to school for their specific purpose:

- Anti-perspirant and deodorant spray
- Perfume/body spray
- Hairspray and other aerosol hair products
- Non-toxic glues such as Pritt and UHU
- Non-solvent based correction fluid

Unauthorised products will be confiscated. Staff should be made aware of the physical effects of volatile substance abuse (VSA), particularly the possible effect on heart rhythm. It is essential that a calm atmosphere is maintained if a student is found to be intoxicated, in order to avoid shock and/or heart failure.

### **The Law on Controlled Drugs**

It is an offence under the **Misuse of Drugs Act 1971**:

- To supply or offer to supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of the Act;
- To be in possession of, or to possess with the intent to supply another, a controlled drug in contravention of the Act; it is a defence to the offence of possession that, knowing or suspecting it to be a controlled drug, the accused took possession of it for the purpose of preventing another from committing or continuing to commit an offence and that as soon as possible after taking possession of it he/she took all such steps as were reasonably open to him/her to destroy the drug or to deliver it into the custody of a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it;
- For the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises knowingly to permit or suffer on those premises: the smoking of cannabis, or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply, or offering to supply any controlled drug.

### **Incidents involving Drugs**

All incidents involving illegal drugs or suspected illegal drugs under the jurisdiction of the school must be reported to either the Head Teacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). If students disclose that they are using drugs off the school site, staff should inform the relevant Pastoral Leader.

The staff dealing with an incident will, wherever possible, take possession of any substance suspected of being a controlled drug. If it is not believed that the substance is a controlled drug the member of staff will still confiscate the substance if they believe it to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This includes psychoactive substances (or 'legal highs'). If the member of staff is in any doubt about whether the substance is a controlled drug or not it should be treated as a controlled drug.

Whenever possible any quantity of a suspected substance must be taken in the first instance to a secure place e.g. lockable drawer in the Head Teacher's office or the school safe. This should be done in the presence of the person from whom it has been taken and another adult. The suspected substance must be placed in a sealed envelope and the details/time/quantity should be recorded on the outside.

Staff who become aware of students being in possession of an illegal drug or suspected drug on a school trip should immediately take temporary possession of the substance and immediately seek advice from the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher. If abroad, the substance should be destroyed. Under no circumstances should any attempt be made to return the substance through Customs. All substances will be confiscated and stored in a secure place, the police will be informed.

**Electronic records of any incidents must be made. Photographic evidence of items removed should be taken if possible and the student concerned should sign to say that the item has been taken from them.**

## Sanctions

The Head Teacher will retain responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents involving illegal drugs. He/she will consider each incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses may be necessary. The implications of any action taken will be considered very carefully.

The Head Teacher will:

1. Inform the parent(s) unless there are concerns about the safety of the student in the home, in which case social services should be alerted
2. Consider the offer of counselling
3. Consider the offer of support in school
4. Consider informing the police of any relevant information

In reaching a decision about the appropriate response the Head Teacher will take in to account whether:

- the substance is legal;
- there was any intention to supply others;
- the possessor was of previous good conduct.

Taking into consideration the above and the individual circumstance of each case the school will institute disciplinary proceedings within the context of the School's Student Support and Behaviour Policy and current DfE guidance on exclusions.

In the interests of safeguarding the education and/or welfare of all the students of the school, there is zero tolerance of drug dealing/supplying (including selling, offering and distributing to other students). Accordingly, save exceptional circumstances, any student will be permanently excluded from the school for drug dealing/supplying. A student may also be permanently excluded for instances of possession or use of illegal drugs on school premises.

It should be noted that dealing with the issues of drugs, alcohol, tobacco needs a measured approach. It is a complex societal issue, particularly of use of tobacco and alcohol which are legal for adults. We have developed a range of responses, incorporating both sanctions and counselling/pastoral support that reflect the range of drug related problems, we believe we are striving to fulfil our obligations under the Education Reform Act but will also not tolerate the possession, use, and distribution of drugs/illicit substances in school .

## School property and searches

School staff can search students **with their consent** for any item. Consent should be obtained in writing before commencing the search wherever possible. Students should be encouraged to open their bags, pockets, etc. for examination. This should always be done in the presence of the student and with an adult witness in attendance. Members of staff may search school property such as a school locker if it is believed there are grounds for this.

The student's agreement is needed to remove any personal possession. If this is not given, the property (e.g. locker) should be isolated and the school's disciplinary and/or Health & Safety policy should be followed.

The person searching should be of the same sex as the student. It is important that all staff understand the implications of searches in the context of drug-related incidents. Anyone who carries out or

witnesses such a search may be required to give evidence should police action follow. It is important that as few people are directly involved in the process as possible.

The Head Teacher and authorised staff have the power to search students or their possessions **without consent** (however, where possible consent in writing from the student should be obtained) where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item. Refer to DfE guidance February 2014 (copy in staff public/policies). Prohibited items include alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco and cigarette papers and any other items that are banned by the school. This also includes volatile substances, new psychoactive substances, other unauthorised substances, e-cigarettes and energy drinks. The school has the right to seize any item however found, which they consider to be harmful or detrimental to school discipline.

Any suspected substance should be handled as little as possible.

**Electronic records of any searches must be made. Photographic evidence of items removed should be taken if possible and the student concerned should sign to say that the item has been taken from them.**

### **Role of the police**

The school will act in accordance with the above guidance. There is no requirement to report any incident but it should be remembered that non-reporting at some stage may be counter-productive or hinder subsequent investigations.

It will be up to the school to decide on whether or not police involvement is necessary. The police will be consulted for advice on issues without giving specific details. When details are given, this will mean that a crime is being reported. In the case of drug supplying within agreed school boundaries, the police will be automatically involved. The school will keep under review the advice on the use of sniffer dogs.

### **Parents and carers**

Parents and carers have a key role to play in drug education and students developing responsible attitudes to drugs. Parents and carers are encouraged to approach the school at any time if they have any concerns about drug issues in relation to their child.

If a student is found to be misusing drugs in any way in school, the parent(s) or carer(s) will be informed as soon as possible unless there are safeguarding implications that this would not be in the interests of the student. It is the school's decision to contact parents when staff are given unsubstantiated information about drug use. The matter will be dealt sensitively only by the member of Senior Leadership Team who will offer advice about support if appropriate.

The school will actively determine ways of informing parents & carers about the school's approach to drugs.

It is recognised that children with user parents may be vulnerable in different ways and the school will provide for this within its pastoral care system and within the drug education programme.

### **Confidentiality**

As with all child protection issues, confidentiality cannot be promised. Members of staff should make clear what the boundaries of confidentiality are so that the student understands how and why sensitive information may be passed on. The student's right to privacy should be respected, regardless of the gravity of the incident, so sensitive information should only be shared with relevant people/agencies, especially protected characteristics under the Equality and Data Protection Acts.

### **Further information**

1. [DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools](#)
2. [Drugscope](#)
3. [Alcohol Concern](#)
4. [Drug Education Forum](#)
5. [Frank](#)
6. [Family Lives](#)
7. [Medical Needs Policy](#)



## Appendix 1

### Delivery of Alcohol, Drugs and smoking related lesson within the Curriculum

The principal routes for the delivery of alcohol, drugs and smoking related lessons are through the Science and PSHCE curricula. The Science curriculum tends to focus on the physical impact of the misuse of these substances whilst PSHCE seeks to teach strategies to deal with peer pressure and opening the debate about the role of these substances within society and the broader impact and consequences to the individual.

#### Science

Year Group	Topic area	Aspect relating to Alcohol, Drug use and Smoking
Yr7	<i>Reproduction</i>	Impact of alcohol, drugs and smoking on the developing foetus.
Y8	<i>Health and Lifestyle</i>	The effects of alcohol or recreational drugs on behaviour, health and life processes. Impact of smoking on the respiratory system. Short and long term consequences.
Yrs9 -11 (Part of GCSE programme)	<i>Non communicable Disease</i> <i>Heart and Health</i>	Factors increasing the risk of cancer including smoking, alcohol and other lifestyle choices.

#### PSHCE

Year Group	Topic area	Aspect relating to Alcohol, Drug use and Smoking
Yr7	<i>PHSE - Me and My Body</i>	Strategies to avoid peer pressure with regard to smoking, and other risky behaviours.
Yr8	<i>PHSE –</i> <i>Introduction to Drugs</i>	Understanding and discussion around the different types of illegal drugs, including alcohol, and how to handle peer pressure.
Yr9	<i>PHSE Day – Health Fair</i>	External providers deliver information on drugs awareness – Branching Out and others attend the Health Fair. Year 12 also support this session and run their own stall.  McMillian Cancer also attends this day and discuss how to live a healthy lifestyle in order to avoid diseases. This includes advice on drugs, alcohol and smoking.
	<i>Citizenship</i>	Laws around drugs are discussed and debated. The impacts of drug use on individuals, communities, businesses and the government are included in this.
Yr10	<i>PHSE Day – Health and SRE</i>	The day covers information about Mental Health and how drugs can affect this. Also information from drugs awareness organisations.  SRE session delivered by Brook which includes information on how drugs and alcohol can affect your judgement as well as issues around consent.
Yr11	<i>SRE Afternoon</i>	SRE session delivered by Brook which includes information on how drugs and alcohol can affect your judgement. This is a more in depth session than the Year 10 one and involves splitting girls and boys.
Yr12/13	<i>Life Skills programme</i>	A series of assemblies take place across the year with guests from external groups to discuss drugs, alcohol and smoking. This is followed up with the drop in sessions being available to discuss individual needs.

Further to these lessons there is always scope to target areas within the Curriculum