



# **DRUGS POLICY**

## **January 2021**

Date of Policy	January 2021
Review date	January 2022
SLT Link	Assistant Head Pastoral

## DRUGS POLICY

### Introduction

Drug misuse is an issue for the whole community. Young people are influenced by parents, youth culture, media, peers and others. Parental guidance and education is key in ensuring that young people know the risks of drug taking and have the knowledge and skills to resist. The school has a responsibility to consider its response to drug misuse, in partnership with health and social services, the police and other agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education and deal with incidents of substance use and misuse. We will educate all pupils on drugs as an integral part of our Personal, Social and Health Education programme.

### Ethos

Sexey's does not condone the misuse of drugs or the illegal supply of these substances. It is committed to the welfare of its members and will act to safeguard their wellbeing. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and will ensure students understand that support is available for those who seek it.

### Scope

This policy covers both legal substances, focussing on medicines, tobacco, alcohol and volatile substances, and illegal drugs. A **drug** is defined as a chemical substance, which can change the way a human body works, either physiologically or psychologically. **Drug misuse** is defined as the non-medical use of drugs that are only intended for use in medical treatment, and the use of drugs that have no accepted medical purpose. Information on the major drugs misused including the consequences of their use can be found at <http://www.talktofrank.com/drugs-a-z>.

### Educational Objectives

1. For students to make healthy informed choices by increasing knowledge and challenging attitudes.
2. To provide accurate information about substances.
3. To increase understanding about the consequences of use and misuse.
4. To minimise the risk that users and potential users face.
5. For students to understand how to seek support.
6. To ensure that students are fully aware of the consequences of the possession, misuse and supply of drugs.

### Medicines

Parents must ensure that any medication brought to school is deposited with the Health Centre where it will be kept securely and administered by Health Centre staff. It is the pupil's responsibility to take the medication and she/he must report to the Health Centre at agreed times. Exceptions to this practice will be in cases where medication may be needed in an emergency (e.g. inhalers for asthma). A list of all pupils who are carrying their own medicines will be provided by the Nursing Sister and be accessible to staff in offices and the Staff Room.

### Tobacco

Sexey's School is a smoke free environment and has a Smoke Free policy. Students are not permitted to have tobacco in their possession in school. The school extends this policy to:

- when a student is on the way to or from school
- when a student is out of school during the day
- when a student is on a school residential activity

### Alcohol

It is an offence under the Licensing Act 1964 to sell intoxicating liquor without a licence and an occasional licence can be applied for if alcohol is sold at school. It is also an offence to sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18. No licence is needed by the school to offer (but not sell) alcohol to staff or parents or students at social events, or to store alcohol on the premises. Except in certain circumstances (e.g. Feast Night) under the supervision of a member of staff, students are not allowed to drink alcohol in school, nor are they permitted to have alcohol in their possession. The school extends this policy to:

- when a student is on the way to or from school
- when a student is out of school during the day
- when a student is on a school residential activity

If a student is caught drinking, under the influence of, or in possession of alcohol, a member of Senior Leadership or Head of Key Stage must be informed. The item(s) should be confiscated and returned to the parents on request or, with the parents' permission, destroyed. The student will face consequences as per the school Behaviour Policy.

### **Volatile Substances**

It is an offence under English Law to supply a volatile substance to a person under the age of 18 knowing or having cause to believe that the substance is likely to be used to cause intoxication. The variety of volatile substances in legitimate use today (including adhesives, aerosol gases, cigarette lighter refills, paint stripper, and Nitrous Oxide) makes them relatively accessible. The procedures for removal and the consideration of sanctions are the same as those that apply to alcohol.

### **New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)**

NPS are drugs that are designed to replicate the effects of other illegal substances. People may refer to these drugs as "legal highs" but all psychoactive substances are now under the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 or subject to the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (PS Act). The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 bans the sale, supply and importation of these drugs.

NPS or so called "Legal Highs" present a particular danger because:

- NPS have been related to paranoia, psychosis, seizures and death.
- NPS can cause a similar range of problems to drugs, which they mimic including a risk of dependency. Some appear to be even more dangerous than the traditional drugs they mimic.
- They are, or have been, easily accessible.
- They may not hold the same perceived threat to health and well-being as other "traditional", illegal drugs.
- Some people incorrectly think NPS are safer because of their perception that they used to be legal or that they come in branded packaging. This exposes young people to risk and participation in risky behaviours.

### **Dealing with suspicion of drug use**

Where a student's behaviour gives rise to concerns about possible drug use, or where information about drug use or supply identifies named individuals, specific, dated, factual records must be made, and the matter referred to the Assistant Head Pastoral. If there is reasonable suspicion but there is no definitive evidence, the student will be offered advice to reduce future the risk of occurrence. The parents should be informed and involved in this pro-active process. There is no legal requirement for the school to contact the police or escalate a situation which has been brought under control by staff interventions though contacting the police for further advice and support may be appropriate. In applying these procedures, the age of the student will be considered and any relevant information and any mitigating circumstances.

All staff must note that:

- a) it is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to take in to one's possession illegal substances even with the intent of preventing a student from committing or continuing to commit an offence in connection with that drug unless the member of staff takes all responsible steps as soon as possible, either to hand the illegal drugs to the police or to destroy the illegal drugs (*i.e.* by flushing down the toilet).
- b) It is also an offence to fail to co-operate with any police investigation as such failure to co-operate may amount to obstruction.
- c) It would be an offence for staff to knowingly allow or condone the use of illegal drugs on school premises.

### **Discovery of substances**

If substances are discovered, adopt the following procedure:

1. Remove the substance from where it is discovered, if possible in the presence of a witness.
2. If staff suspect that one or more students are concealing a substance on their person, a search should be carried out in accordance with the school Search Policy.
3. Having removed the substance, the place, date and time when the substance came into the school's possession must be recorded.

4. The substance should be taken to the Headteacher, or member of the Leadership Team in a signed, dated and sealed container. The teacher must not retain the substance; to do so may place that teacher at risk. A photograph will be taken of the substance.
5. The Headteacher (or member of Leadership Team) **must** contact the local Police by calling 101 who will arrange for the substance to be collected. The Headteacher is responsible for the safekeeping of the substance until collected.
6. Equipment associated with substance misuse must be handled with extreme care. Gloves should be worn if possible. Equipment should be stored safely and syringes disposed of through the Health Centre.

### **Testing Policy**

A student, whose behaviour leads a member of staff to believe that they have been consuming alcohol may use a Department of Transport approved detection device to test for the presence of alcohol in the student's saliva. The test is simple, non-invasive and can be carried out in the presence of the student. In addition, staff may also use the same device to test any fluid, which they have reason to believe may contain alcohol. In circumstances where a student or their parents request testing to establish 'innocence' the senior member of staff investigating should give due consideration to this request and assess if this would assist in determining circumstance of a given incidence. However, if a student is in possession of an unauthorised substance this is possession is contrary to school rules; there is no requirement to prove or verify that the unauthorised substance has been used in order to determine that an offence has been committed.

The school does not routinely or randomly test for drugs. A programme of testing for drugs may be a condition for a student returning to school in the rare circumstance where the consequence of possession, use or supply of illegal drugs has not led to a permanent exclusion.

### **Seeking support for drug use**

#### **Students will always be supported if they voluntarily seek help with a drug related problem.**

A student who is using drugs can seek support and guidance from the school through the Health Centre. Such support will be treated as a Healthcare issue and is entirely anonymous. It is advised that students inform the Health Centre staff that they wish that appropriate Pastoral Staff in the school are made aware that they are seeking and engaging in support, to safeguard the welfare of the student.

### **Sanctions**

As a boarding school, it is essential that mechanisms are in place to maintain the safety of all members of our school community.

In line with the Behaviour and Rewards Policy Permanent Exclusion will usually be used as a consequence if a student is in possession of illegal drugs for personal use and/or dealing drugs at any time that they are in the School's care, on school premises, on a school trip, or whilst in school uniform.

The decision to exclude will fully consider the circumstances, and extenuating factors including whether the student involved has been pro-active in seeking timely support well in advance of any offence and has made the school aware of this through the Health Centre.

The Behaviour Consequences Matrix of the Behaviour and Rewards Policy and has been determined with reference to:

- DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/270169/drug\\_advice\\_for\\_schools.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf)
- School discipline and exclusions <https://www.gov.uk/school-discipline-exclusions/exclusions>

The School will always seek Police advice and where appropriate refer the student(s) involved for external professional support.

### **SPECIAL GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL VISITS**

#### **U.K. Visits**

If the substance is discovered on a visit from the school, staff should contact the Headteacher (or member of the SLT if the Headteacher is not available) immediately.

### **Visits Abroad**

If the visit is abroad, staff will need to be aware that the police in that country may act differently from our own police. The Headteacher (or member of the LT) should be contacted immediately. In these circumstances, a detailed record of events must be made, if possible countersigned by another member of staff. Subsequently the substance should be destroyed by flushing it down the lavatory in the presence of the counter signatory. If the incident is sufficiently serious *i.e.* in terms of numbers of students or quantity of illegal drugs recovered, the Headteacher or Senior Leader may advise the teacher to consult the British Consulate in the Country. The Headteacher will decide what action, if any, should be taken on return.

## APPENDIX 1 to Drugs Policy

### DRUGS MISUSE

Teachers concerned about any student and possible drug misuse should speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher.

#### Warning signs

1. Early detection of drug misuse is extremely important. If a young person's drug misuse is identified at an early stage, it is easier for action to be taken to prevent his or her further misuse of drugs. Teachers need to be vigilant, particularly when they are in charge of young people away from the school premises. Research has shown that first experiments with drugs by young people almost always involve a substance provided by a friend.
2. The signs listed below may indicate that individuals or groups of young people are misusing drugs. **Their presence alone is not conclusive proof of drug or solvent misuse: many of them are normal part of adolescence**, but the presence of several signs together may point to a need for greater vigilance.

#### Warning signs for individuals

- Changes in attendance, and being unwilling to take part in school activities.
- Decline in performance in schoolwork.
- Unusual outbreaks of temper, marked swings of mood, restlessness or irritability.
- Reports from parents that more time is being spent away from home, possibly with new friends in older age groups.
- Excessive spending or borrowing of money.
- Stealing money or goods.
- Excessive tiredness without obvious cause.
- No interest in physical appearance.
- Sores or rashes especially on the mouth or nose.
- Lack of appetite.
- Heavy use of scents, colognes etc. to disguise the smell of drugs.
- Wearing sunglasses at inappropriate times (to hide dilated or constricted pupils)

#### Warning signs in groups

- Regular absence on certain days.
- Keeping at a distance from other pupils, away from supervision points (e.g. groups who frequently gather near the gate of a school playground or sports field).
- Being the subject of rumours about drug taking.
- Talking to strangers on or near the premises.
- Stealing which appears to be the work of several individuals rather than one person (e.g. perhaps to shoplift solvents)
- Use of drug taker's slang.
- Exchanging money or other objects in unusual circumstances.
- Associating briefly with one person who is much older and not normally part of the peer group.

#### Objects that may indicate Drug Misuse

- Foil containers or cup shapes made from silver foil, perhaps discoloured by heat.
- Metal tins.
- Spoons discoloured by heat.
- Pillboxes.
- Plastic, cellophane or metal foil wrappers.
- Small plastic or glass phials or bottles.
- Twists of paper.
- Straws.
- Sugar lumps.

- Syringes and needles.
- Cigarette papers and lighters.
- Spent matches.
- Plastic bags or butane gas containers (solvent abuse)
- Cardboard or other tubes (heroin)
- Stamps, stickers, transfers or similar items.
- Shredded cigarettes, home rolled cigarettes and pipes (cannabis)
- Paper (about 2 inches square) folded to form an envelope (heroin)