



SEXEY'S
SCHOOL

Alcohol and Drugs Policy

Signed:

Headteacher

Date of Policy	September 2023
Review date	September 2024
SLT Link	Assistant Head Pastoral

SEXEY'S DRUGS POLICY

SCHOOL ETHOS AND VALUES

Our Christian values are at the heart of the ethos of the school and through these we grow individually and as a community. The Story of the Good Samaritan underpins our 7 core values of:

- Honesty
- Forgiveness
- Empathy
- Courage
- Resilience
- Kindness
- Respect

These core values underpin our policies, procedures and the way we treat one another in our community.

This policy has been developed with the school's Christian values and principles, as a Church of England School, at its foundation.

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. 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, vaping substances 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.

Smoking, Tobacco and Vaping

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Smoke-Free Policy which details the School's stance on smoking and actions and support to be taken connected to smoking incidents (**smoking is taken to include the use of all tobacco/nicotine products, herbal substitutes, and vaping**).

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 Year 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 DSL. 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 into 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 evidence of substance misuse

Evidence of substance misuse can come in a range of forms including videos, messages, response by drugs dog, drug testing. At times students may disclose information on other students and seek to do this anonymously for this, staff should where possible respect this. The school must act based on the evidence provided to them and using the principle of “on the balance of probability” the evidence is suggestive that the student is involved in the use of or dealing of drugs then appropriate consequences must be put in place in line with the Behaviour and Rewards Policy, this could include Permanent Exclusion as a consequence for use of drugs and always where there is evidence to suggest the dealing of drugs.

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 or using drugs may be required to undertake a drug or alcohol test. For Alcohol this will be a Department of Transport approved detection device to test for the presence of alcohol in the student's saliva. For Drugs this will be again a saliva based test. The school will also test surfaces and possessions for residual when they have significant concerns, based on the evidence available to them around drug use. The test is simple and will be carried out in where possible the presence of the student.

In addition, staff may also test any fluid, which they have reason to believe may contain alcohol or drugs. 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 and 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.

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 including for possession 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
- 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.

RELATED POLICIES

Behaviour, Rewards and Suspension

Health and Safety

Smoke-Free

Curriculum

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)

Useful Organisations

Alcohol Change UK 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 3907 8480 Email: contact@alcoholchange.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 7404 0242 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: <https://ash.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 7766 9900 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: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drugwise 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.drugwise.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: 0300 123 6600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com;

Website: www.talktofrank.com

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: 0808 800 2222 Website: www.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. Text: 07496 959930 Information line: 01785 810762. Email: info@re-solv.org

Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044;

Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

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

Website: www.childrenssociety.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>

