

**ST. DAVID'S HIGH
SCHOOL
Drugs and Alcohol
Education**

**Adopted by Governors
June 2010
Reviewed 2023**



This policy statement endorses the views and values expressed in our policy for PSHE and seeks to state in more detail our position on the use and misuse of drugs and alcohol.

RATIONALE:

This school takes the issue of drug use and misuse seriously and seeks to establish an environment, which is free from the misuse of any drugs. This includes not only on the school premises but also to any other place where students or staff are present as a result of a school-organised event, trip or visit. We aim to help students by providing drug education in the context of the curriculum, and support, in all cases of drug related problems or concerns. We seek to balance the rights of individuals with the need to ensure a safe and healthy environment in the school for all

PURPOSES:

1. To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
2. To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students, staff and visitors to the school
3. To clarify the school's approach to drugs including appropriate management procedures in relation to drug related incidents for all staff, students, parents/carers, governors, partners and the wider community
4. To give guidance for staff and parents on developing, implementing and monitoring the school's drug education programme
5. To provide accurate information about the full range of legal and illegal drugs including medicines, alcohol and tobacco.
6. To explore attitudes and challenge the use of stereotypical images
7. To encourage students to be aware of the effects and dangers of drugs.
8. To help students develop decision making skills about all risk taking behaviour.
9. To help students look after their own health care.
10. To enable students and staff to identify sources of confidential advice and support as school staff are unable to guarantee absolute confidentiality in cases of drug misuse
11. To promote students' awareness of their role in helping others.
12. To work in partnership with parents/carers and encourage interest and awareness.

GUIDELINES:

1. The Senior Leader responsible for co-ordinating PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) will ensure continuity, coherence and progression throughout all years of the school working with other relevant staff.
2. The programme will be incorporated into and delivered through the PSHCE programme, by subject specialists across the curriculum and by discrete events.
3. Relevant adults other than teachers will be invited to contribute to the programme as appropriate

4. Professional development opportunities and support will be made available to all staff in this area including guidance on how to respond confidently to drug related incidents with consistency and sensitivity taking into account religious, social and cultural issues.
5. Students and their parents/carers will be made aware of school policy and procedure for the management of drug related incidents (See Appendix 1)
6. Any medications brought in by students must be kept in the main office.
7. Opportunities will be offered to parents/carers from time to time to inform and enhance their knowledge of drug use and misuse.
8. The school has a system for dealing with drug related incidents which is in line with the school's overall values and ethos, local authority policies and national strategies (see Appendix I).
9. The policy will be reviewed at least biennially

CONCLUSION:

Drugs refer to all substances including medicines, volatile substances, tobacco and illegal drugs. Knowledge of drug use and misuse is an entitlement and will be included in the school curriculum for all students in a way which complements the primary responsibility of parents and carers. This policy should be read in conjunction with the overall PSHCE programme and with other school publications and policy statements where there are direct links. It aims to help students to develop attitudes, values, skills and knowledge to help them make informed decisions related to drugs.

COMMENTARY:

While the Headteacher, in co-operation with Governors, parents and the LEA have ultimate responsibility for implementation of the policy, the PCSHE Co-ordinator will undertake day-to-day oversight.

In all cases of drug misuse, the school will extend to the pupil or pupils involved any necessary pastoral and welfare support. Disciplinary procedures will be invoked as would seem appropriate. If incidents of use and misuse, or the supply of drugs occurs on the premises, each incident will be treated separately and the implications of any actions taken will be carefully considered. The Chairperson of the Governing Body will be informed. Staff becoming aware of difficulties or incidents involving pupils must inform the Headteacher or the Health Education Co-ordinator immediately. The PCSHE Co-ordinator will communicate all difficulties and incidents to the Headteacher. The school endorse the Flintshire Drug and Alcohol Policy Statement, guidelines and procedures and will use the referral procedure and incident log appendices 1, 2 & 3.

A copy of the complete manual will be available for reference in the staffroom.

MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

The school ethos encourages students to discuss problems with staff. The prime concern in all cases is the health and safety of members of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of students.

Any medical emergencies should be dealt with in accordance with the school's 'Health and Safety Policy'. First aid and summoning appropriate help should be the initial concern before addressing further issues. If in doubt medical assistance should be summoned immediately.

Students and their parents/carers will be made aware that school has access to support agencies and will deal with such matters in a professional and caring manner. The possession, use or supply of illegal/controlled or other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries (see policy statement) will not be tolerated, neither will drug paraphernalia. The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal or controlled substance for the purpose of preventing an offence being committed or continued. It is NOT appropriate for any member of staff to initiate a personal search and should only be carried out in accordance with the school's separately agreed protocols.

When dealing with a parent/carer under the influence of drugs on the school premises, the focus for staff will always be on the maintenance of the child's or staff welfare. Where it becomes abusive, child protection procedures will be instigated and the involvement of the police be sought.

In the course of their day to day duties, staff are expected to be vigilant for signs of drug use; this includes checking that the school site is free from drug related paraphernalia

LINES OF ACTION

- The Headteacher, or in the case of absence, a designated senior leader will take overall responsibility for co-ordinating the school's approach to specific drug related incidents.
- Staff who become aware of students being in possession of drugs on school premises must notify a member of the school's senior leadership team.
- He/she will inform the Headteacher before investigating the matter, outlining the manner in which the investigation will take place.
- Efforts should be made to persuade the person to hand over voluntarily, any drugs or paraphernalia in the presence of a second adult witness and the items are passed to the Headteacher in a sealed bag or envelope
- The SLT member will explain to the student why the investigation is taking place.
- If the allegations are substantiated or in need of further investigation, the Headteacher will be informed and parent/carer contacted by the designated senior leader who will thereafter be the single point of access

for the incident.

- The Headteacher will inform the Governing Body chair or deputy of any such incidents.

The Headteacher will deal with any approaches from the media, in consultation with the local authority press officer in serious cases, and will inform the Governing Body of such involvement.

- Only the Headteacher may request to involve the use of police sniffer dogs either as a response or deterrent to the belief that there is evidence of possession or supply of suspected illegal/controlled drugs in school. The decision will not be taken lightly, but would follow after consultation with the local authority and with agreement of the chair of the Governing Body

SUPPORT AND SANCTIONS

We will deal with incidents on an individual and carefully considered basis acknowledging levels of vulnerability and we will seek to support and protect students; however, action will be taken to deter unacceptable behaviour.

We keep parents/carers fully informed and need their support to bring about changes in the behaviour of their children. Where there are safeguarding concerns or where a child has, or may have special educational needs linked to their level of ability or understanding, additional advice must be sought from the relevant member of staff

All parents/carers are encouraged to contact their child's Group Tutor about any issue related to drugs and their child. School can refer parents/carers to other sources of help e.g. specialist drug agencies or family support groups

Sanctions of appropriate severity will be applied to the intentional misuse of any illegal or controlled substance by any member of the school community on the school premises or while on any school trip, visit or event.

Disciplinary action will be taken against any member of staff involved in the above.

The school will keep a record of all drug related incidents and will decide when and if to inform the police, who will follow their agreed protocols

Possession of illegal drugs is a criminal offence and the headteacher would normally involve the Police in any such incident. A range of sanctions determined by the nature of the offence will be applied and support sought for involvement with the Drugs Intervention Service (DISC) or other counselling and support service

Selling or trading in illegal substances in school would always result in a report being made to the Police and permanent exclusion unless there is unequivocal evidence from reliable sources that the student was coerced.