



Anthony Gell School

Drugs Policy

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Revision	Date	Minute Number
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Definition

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines a drug as:

'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'

This definition has been adopted by the Home Office and is the definition that applies within this policy and which therefore covers:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrates
- All legal medicinal drugs (including 'over-the-counter' and prescription medicines)

Aims of this policy

The purposes of this policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage drugs, alcohol and illegal substances on the school premises, and any incidents involving such that may occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs, alcohol and illegal substances compliments the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school's drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs

Application

This policy applies to all persons using the school site; students, staff and visitors. It applies whilst students are travelling to and from school, during the school day (including break and lunch time), and during any additional times the school is legally responsible for the student. It applies on residential and non-residential visits.

Role of the headteacher and governors

The Governing Body have overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation. This responsibility is devolved to the headteacher who is responsible for liaising with the governing body, parents/carers and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment of those staff within the school, who have responsibility for handling the implementation of the policy. The headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

Drug, Alcohol and Substance Misuse education

The main vehicle for the delivery of drugs education will be the PSE/CR programme that is core provision from Year 7 to Year 11. Additional work, as necessary, can be addressed through Post-16 PSE/CR lessons. Other curriculum address specific health and performance issues relating to drugs as per subject specific requirements.

The following principles underpin drugs education:

- The majority of secondary age children are likely to experience some form of drug use (including tobacco and alcohol) on a recreational or experimental basis and a minority will try illegal drugs.
- Drug use is not restricted to particular ethnic, social income or gender based groups.
- Whilst students should be encouraged to express views in a secure atmosphere, they should not be pressured into making disclosures and staff should not disclose their own habits or experiences.
- Delivery should be broken down into units that are appropriate to age and experience of learners, recognising that particularly vulnerable students may require additional support.
- Units of work should include brief assessment procedures to establish the effectiveness of teaching and learning.

The purposes of drugs education are to:

- Provide accurate and up to date information relating to drugs.
- Explore attitudes towards drugs and drug use.
- Promote lifestyles that take due account of health issues relating to drugs.
- Draw attention to wider social and economic consequences of drug use.

Teaching methodology will encompass:

- Teaching will be in accordance with the appropriate schemes of work for KS3, KS4 and KS5
 - Provision of information drawing on up to date resources
 - Promoting group and class discussion of issues
 - Relating information closely to real life situations
 - Encouraging understanding of differing individual and cultural attitudes to drugs
 - Making planned use of external resources for example television, theatre in education, GPs, other agencies.
 - Teachers will endeavour to be non-judgemental in delivery of the programme
- (Details of teaching programmes are to be found in schemes of work)

Professional Development

- Staff engaged in delivery of PSE/CR will be encouraged to participate in professional development opportunities relating to drugs education, particularly as this is a field of rapid change.

- New staff will be supported internally to ensure that they can approach the subject matter with confidence.
- Staff INSET/induction programme will include training staff on how to respond in the event of a student being suspected of using drugs/a disclosure. Staff will be regularly signposted to the DSL in school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Content and appropriateness of the schemes of work will be reviewed.
- An evaluation of specific cases/responses will take place following each reported incident.

Sanctions

The school's jurisdiction covers students from the time they start from home to travel to school until they arrive home after school, and also covers all school-related events and visits. When the welfare of other students and staff is compromised, this jurisdiction may also cover actions taken by students when they are not at school or a school related event.

While under the school's jurisdiction, no student may at any time be in possession of a classified drug, alcohol, tobacco or other substance which may be similarly abused.

Drugs

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of an illegal drug/legal high or is caught in possession of an illegal drug/legal high (or any form of drug paraphernalia) parents/carers will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the headteacher (or designated member of staff). However, we reserve the right, in accordance with the current legal guidance, to exclude any student in possession of illegal drugs/legal highs, even for a first or one-off offence.

Sanctions will range from internal isolation through fixed term-exclusions to permanent exclusion (See Exclusions Policy).

In all cases of illegal drug possession or the possession of drug paraphernalia, the police will be notified and criminal action may result.

We recognise that a student who is abusing drugs needs support. We would therefore hope that, in most circumstances, the school and parents/carers can work together to support the young person involved. Drug counselling, through the school nurse service will be offered, as appropriate, or a referral to other drug bases organisations such as T3.

Legal highs

These relate to all 'psychoactive' drugs, including 'legal highs', and can be described using three main categories: stimulants, 'downers' or sedatives, psychedelics or hallucinogens. They are substances which produce similar effects to illegal drugs but are not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Legal highs will be dealt with at Anthony Gell School as a prohibited substance.

Cigarettes, E-Cigarettes, tobacco and matches

Students are forbidden to bring, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, lighters or matches on to the school premises. Students are also forbidden to smoke on the way to or from school, or on school visits. If found smoking or found in the possession of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, tobacco or matches, students will be sanctioned with sanctions including detentions/loss of social time/internal isolation in the first instance and parents/carers will be contacted. Further incident may result in either internal isolation or fixed term exclusion. We recognise that any students who smoke, needs support. We would therefore hope that, in most circumstances, the school and parents/carers can work together to support the young person involved. The student will be referred to the school nurse to be counselled regarding giving up smoking.

Alcohol

Students are not allowed to bring alcohol on to the premises or to drink alcohol on the way to or from school. If a student is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or is caught in possession of alcohol, the student's parents/carers will be contacted. Depending on the severity of the incident the student can expect to suffer a sanction such as a fixed-term exclusion.

We recognise that any student who abuses alcohol, needs support. We would therefore hope that, in most circumstances, the school and parents/carers can work together to support the young person involved. The student will be referred to the school nurse to be counselled regarding alcohol abuse.

Medicines and Legal Medicinal Drugs

Students are forbidden to bring any harmful drugs into school unless they are for medication. In this case a medical consent form must be completed (accessed on the school website) and must be prescribed medicines that are in date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacist and include instructions for administration, their dosage and storage.

Facilities exist for students to keep supplies of some medicines and other medical supplies in the first aid room/Pastoral Base. If a student needs to keep medicines in the first aid room/Pastoral Base s/he should bring them to the Pastoral Base with a completed medical consent form (accessed on the school website). The prescribed medicines must be in date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacies and include instructions for administration, their dosage and storage. Where appropriate, students will always be expected to self-administer their medicine and are asked to take any medication within sight of a qualified first-aider. Antibiotics should not need to be brought into school, except on the advice of a qualified medical practitioner.

We only administer non-prescribed medicines that are in the original packaging with written consent on the 'Medical Consent Form' eg eye drops, Feminax, Gaviscon, cough medicine. This will also only be on a short term basis (where the school have concerns they will seek further guidance from their link School Nurse).

It is our policy to give age appropriate doses of paracetamol, ibuprofen and anti-histamine to secondary age students as described on the packet, if written consent from the parents

has been received in advance of administration. We will check with the student that they have not previously taken any medication containing paracetamol or ibuprofen within the preceding 4 hours.

We will never administer aspirin to any student under 16 years old unless prescribed by a doctor.

All other pain relief medicine will not be administered without first checking maximum dosages and when previously taken.

For further information please see Anthony Gell School's 'Medical Conditions Policy'.

Searching and Confiscation

Under the Education and Inspections Act (2006) the headteacher and authorised staff have a statutory power to search a student or students or their possessions, without consent, where we have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items are:

- knives or weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco, e-cigarettes, cigarette papers and matches
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that the member of staff reasonable suspects has been, or is likely to be used:
 - *to commit an offence*
 - *to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student)*

The Headteacher and authorised staff can also search for any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

At Anthony Gell School, the rules also extend to :

- Legal highs
- Electronic cigarettes (also known as 'e-cigarettes' or 'e-lites')

Any student found to be in breach of any aspect of this policy will have the offending articles confiscated. In most cases, fireworks, alcohol, tobacco and cigarette papers, will be returned to the parent/carer (only) although depending on the seriousness of the offence, they may be surrendered to the police.

Illegal drugs, stolen items, pornographic images featuring children or any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used:

- to commit an offence to cause personal injury to

- or damage to the property of, any person (including the student) will be surrendered to the police.

For regulations regarding searching and confiscation within schools, please refer to the DfE guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation> as well as the schools' behaviour policy.

The policy should be used in conjunction with Anthony Gell School's:

- Behaviour for Learning policy
- Safeguarding policy
- SEND policy
- Medical conditions policy

Procedure in dealing with drugs related incidents

School Position:

- It is unacceptable to bring any drug on to the premises other than for clear medical reasons and in such cases the tutor/pastoral manager should be notified and arrangements made through the Pastoral Base for the safe storage of the product on site.
- It is unacceptable to come to school under the influence of any drug.

Internal Referral Procedures:

- If a student appears to be under the influence of any drug s/he should be escorted by a member of staff to the Pastoral Base for an assessment of the situation to take place. Staff in the Pastoral Base will notify the Head of Pastoral Care, Member of SLT or Headteacher at the earliest opportunity.
- If a student is believed to be in possession of any illegal drug/legal highs, s/he should be escorted, along with his/her personal belongings eg bag and coat, by a member of staff to the Pastoral Base. Staff in the Pastoral Base will notify the Head of Pastoral Care, Member of SLT or the Headteacher at the earliest opportunity.
- Where there is strong evidence or information relating to a drugs related, but out of school problem, involving a student, the teacher in possession of the information will refer to the Pastoral Manager, Member of SLT or Head of Pastoral Care. In most cases, the case will then be followed up through fortnightly multi-agency meetings unless the matter is seen to be an urgent child protection one, in which case, the Pastoral Manager, Member of SLT or Head of Pastoral Care will follow the appropriate safeguarding procedures.

School Follow Up Responses:

- A search of the student and his/her belongings will be carried out
- With cigarettes (including e-cigarettes), school reserves the right to deal with the matter internally or to inform parent(s) or carer(s) of school's concerns. (see also for reference the school's anti smoking policy)
- For repeated incidents involving the smoking of tobacco indicating a serious habit, the student will be offered referral to the School Nurse. (see also for reference the school's anti smoking policy)
- With alcohol, school's initial response will be to inform parent(s) or carer(s) and, if necessary on health or safety grounds, ask them to remove their child from the site.
- In the case of misuse of volatile substances, prescription drugs and over the counter medicines, the school will initially inform parent(s) or carer(s) and, if necessary, seek medical attention.
- In the case of any illegal drug/legal highs the school will, through the Headteacher, Member of SLT or Head of Pastoral Care, inform the parent(s) or carer(s) and will inform the police. The school reserves the right to exclude a student for such a breach of rules.
- In any case of a student passing on or selling an illegal drug/legal highs on the premises, on journeys to or from school or offsite during school breaks, the Headteacher will inform parents, inform the police and automatically exclude the student. The Headteacher reserves the right to recommend fixed-term or permanent exclusion to the Governing Body.
- In line with Derbyshire County Council recommendations, the Headteacher retains the right to hand over as evidence to the police any illegal drug or to destroy it in the presence of a witness.
- The exercise of powers of search will be in accordance with DfE guidance and current legislation.

Objectives behind informing parents:

- To fulfil the school's responsibilities in terms of informing parents of the well-being of their child.
- To make clear to parents that school should be a "safe" place, irrespective of personal preferences of students or parents.
- To offer support and advice to parents who may be both shocked and under-informed on drugs matters.

Objectives behind informing police:

- To enable them to exercise their judgement over what constitutes a breach in the law.
- To enable us to draw on their support, advice and resources.
- To facilitate a two-way flow of information on drugs related issues that might affect the school/the school's students and/or staff.

Referral to Other Agencies:

- The objective underpinning referral to other agencies is always the future well-being of the student at risk. As a school, we expect to have basic knowledge to inform decisions but not the expertise to provide appropriate support in a complex case. In such circumstances, with the consent of the young person and parents, we will refer individual cases to other agencies. These agencies include the Health Services, Social Services, Youth Offending Teams and specialist agencies approved by Derbyshire County Council.
- In the knowledge that this is a fast changing subject, school will take advantage of professional development and updating services made available to assist in periodic review of the policy. Such reviews will take into account the views of students, parents and Governors.