



**Anthony Gell**  
— School —

# DRUGS POLICY

Approval Level	Date of Issue	Minute No/Version	Date of Review
Local Governing Body	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	1754/25	March 2028

## 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)

**DfE Definition of the term 'Drug':**

**Drug includes; illegal substances (e.g. amphetamines, ecstasy, synthetic cannabinoids, cocaine), alcohol, tobacco, medicines, volatile substances (e.g. aerosols, solvents, petrol). Schools may wish to consider including caffeine and electronic cigarettes.**

## 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.

## Links to School Policies

This policy is linked to: Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy; Behaviour/Disciplinary Policy; Anti-Bullying Policy; Medicines Policy.

## The wider Community

It is important to remember most students in Derbyshire will **NOT** use drugs and that the challenges that schools face are due to drug and alcohol issues that are found in the communities their students are growing up in.

To combat the drug related gossip, rumours and myths that circulate, Derbyshire has established a **Drug Alert Group** for professionals across Derbyshire. The Drug Alert Group provides a two way process in which schools via their Designated Safeguarding Lead can pass on new drug names, alleged trends, emerging drug use etc and receive alerts that clarify facts, dispel myths and challenge 'fake news'.

The Drug Alert contact for the DSL in schools is [mick.decarteret@cgl.org.uk](mailto:mick.decarteret@cgl.org.uk)

## 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.

The guidance is also strengthened by several pieces of national protocols guidance:

- Drug: advice for schools <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>;
- Keeping Children Safe in Education – statutory guidance for schools and colleges [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/835733/Keeping\\_children\\_safe\\_in\\_education\\_2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835733/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2019.pdf);
- Search and confiscation <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>;
- Relationship and Sexual Health Education and Health Education <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>;

When to call the police – Guidance for schools and colleges

<https://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/Children%20and%20Young%20people/When%20to%20call%20the%20police%20guidance%20for%20schools%20and%20colleges.pdf>

## 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.

## A Whole School Approach

Drug and Alcohol Education is coordinated, planned and delivered as an integrated programme across other curriculum areas, with the main emphasis on discrete PSHE lessons. Responses to incidents, conversation and attitudes reflect the school ethos.



## Vulnerable Students

Some students are more vulnerable to drug use and other social problems. Groups of children 'at risk' of substance misuse can be identified as:

- Children in Care;
- Children excluded from School;
- Child Criminal Exploitation;
- Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Children missing from school on a regular basis;
- Children involved in the Youth Justice System for Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Children that have a learning disability or developmental delay;
- Children that have a family member known to misuse substances;
- Children that are homeless.

Derbyshire School Net has information on children at risk of exploitation which includes information on child sexual exploitation, trafficking and countylines that will help schools, click here for more information <https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/keeping-children-safe-in-education/emerging-school-safeguarding-themes/children-at-risk-of-exploitation.aspx>

CGL have been commissioned by Derbyshire to provide a service specifically designed to help students who are vulnerable to drug or alcohol misuse. To explore this further please contact [Mick.decarteret@cgl.org.uk](mailto:Mick.decarteret@cgl.org.uk)

Space 4 U is also commissioned by Derbyshire to support children and young people affected by other people's drug or alcohol misuse. To find out more please contact email [emma.kemp@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:emma.kemp@actionforchildren.org.uk)

## **The role of parents and carers**

Parents/carers are an important member of the whole school community and have the biggest impact on preventing children and young people becoming involved in problematic drug and alcohol use.

Protective factors such as; growing up where there are strong family bonds; where families have clear family rules; strong parental monitoring and open discussions all support students to make healthier life choices.

We encourage communication through teaching and learning, raising awareness in students about drugs and alcohol and involving parents as part of their whole school approach.

Parents and carers are also key to enabling young people transfer their school experience of drug and alcohol education into the world they are growing up in. The school will encourage parents and carers to engage with their child's drug education wherever possible.

There are parents who use drugs and alcohol and this may impact on the child's health, safety and wellbeing. Schools need to be familiar with the Derby City and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's procedures and the relevant section on parents misusing substances. Schools need to use their local procedures if the substance misuse is impacting on the child and is placing the child at risk of significant harm:  
<https://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/index.htm>

If a parent/carer is under the influence of drugs or alcohol on the school premises we will ask them to leave. The school can contact the police if the situation becomes difficult to manage.

If a parent/carer comes to collect a child and it is believed they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the Headteacher and DSL should be notified. The safety of the child should be assessed. In situations where the child may be at risk of harm and the school is not able to prevent the child leaving with the parent/carer, they should contact the police. If the school believe parental substance misuse is putting the child at risk of significant harm the school must follow local Safeguarding Procedures.

Schools can refer children and young people affected by someone else's drug or alcohol use to Space 4 U, the service Derbyshire has commission to support children and young people aged 5-18. [Space.4u2@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:Space.4u2@actionforchildren.org.uk) or Telephone 01246 277 422

## **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 and encourage students to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- 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, online accredited resources and support and 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.

## Role of External Contributors / Speakers

The use of external contributors or speakers can be a valuable tool in enriching the school drug and alcohol education programme but shouldn't replace a comprehensive programme. There are recognised national organisations, but you need to carefully consider using these and any local groups or individuals offering to support your school in drug and alcohol education. The school should ensure the contribution being delivered by an external speaker/visitor:

- Is consistent with the school drug and alcohol education programme;
- Builds on student learning;
- Reflects the school policy;
- Assesses students;
- Evaluates the impact;
- Signposts to relevant services;
- Allows students to reflect on learning;
- Provides teachers with the skills and information to follow up and extend the learning

We ensure we have safe adults in our school and the necessary checks have been undertaken and supervision relevant to their role (regulated activity).

## 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 Change, Grow, Live (CGL).

## 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, Vapes and matches

Students are forbidden to bring, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, lighters/matches or vapes 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, vapes, 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 smokes, 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 managing and ceasing the use of this.

## 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 or a relevant agency 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. These must be organised through the Pastoral Manager in charge of medicines.

Facilities exist for students to keep supplies of some medicines and other medical supplies in the first aid room/Pastoral Office. If a student needs to keep medicines in the first aid room/Pastoral Base s/he should bring them to the Pastoral Office 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' e.g. 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, vapes.
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that the member of staff reasonable suspects has been, or is likely to be used:
  - *to commit and 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 or vapes

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.
- It is not permitted for students to share medication or for another child's medication to be given to another.

### 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 Office 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 e.g. bag and coat, by a member of staff to the Pastoral Office. Staff in the Pastoral Office 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.

Each case should be looked at individually and respond proportionately in response to the findings of an enquiry of drug taking, supply and/or distribution. The police, CGL and other agencies who may be already involved will be able to help provide guidance to the school.

Students involved in drug use and/or dealing drugs are often being exploited and are incredibly vulnerable. To ensure the safety of all children schools should always consider using the CRE Tool Kit to gain a clear insight into potential exploration. Exclusion will be the last resort and only applied where justified.

When considering their response, the school should also consider:

- Counselling;
- Behaviour support;
- CGL drug/alcohol programmes;

- Pastoral support;
- CRE Tool Kit;
- Targeted prevention.

At all stages of responding to a drug or alcohol related incident the Headteacher/DSL and all staff involved should clearly record all decisions, actions and outcomes. These records should be treated as a Child Protection Record and stored securely on the child's Safeguarding Welfare File.

## School 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 have the option of automatically excluding 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:

The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) have produced 'When to Call the Police – Guidance for schools and colleges'. The document offers advice for headteachers, senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding leads (DSLs). As well as covering drug related incidents the document covers: Assault, Criminal damage, Cybercrime, Drugs, Harassment, Sexual offences, Theft and Weapon

<https://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/Children%20and%20Young%20people/When%20to%20call%20the%20police%20guidance%20for%20schools%20and%20colleges.pdf>

- 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.
- The DSL shares regular updates from Derbyshire Safeguarding Forums regarding drug policy, local patterns of drug use and referral agencies.

## A SUSPECTED/FACTUAL DRUG RELATED INCIDENT

