

Stepney All Saints School

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Drugs & Alcohol Misuse Policy

Committee Review: SLT

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SLT Responsible: Iain Cameron

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This policy has been developed in conjunction with Department of Education guidance and in particular the following documents ‘The Department for Education and Association of Chief Police Officers Drug Advice for Schools’ (January 2012), ‘Searching, screening and confiscation; Advice for head teachers, school staff and governing bodies ‘ (July 2022), ‘Keeping children safe in education Statutory guidance for schools and colleges’ (September 2022) and Stepney All Saints School Discipline, Student Behaviour & Exclusion Policy and the Safeguarding Policy and Medical Policy. Please see these policies for further information.

1. Aims

- 1.1 To safeguard the wellbeing of all students, staff and visitors.
- 1.2 To reinforce that the school does not tolerate the misuse of drugs or alcohol by members of the school nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- 1.3 To outline systems and procedures in place when managing incidents of drug, alcohol or substance misuse or the suspected use of prohibited substances.
- 1.4 To educate students on the dangers of drug, alcohol and other substance misuse and to ensure the health and safety of the school’s community in conjunction with meeting the pastoral needs of all students.
- 1.5 To continually develop and improve the policy by reviewing it regularly after any drug or alcohol related incident.

2. Responsibilities and Key Roles

- 2.1 The Head teacher or delegated Member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) oversees and co-ordinates drug related issues within the school.
- 2.2 The School actively co-operates with other agencies including local Police, Social Services, Safe East and early targeted support to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.
- 2.3 Authorised staff are trained to carry out searching, screening and confiscation on those individuals suspected of possession of drugs, alcohol or other banned substance according to behaviour policy.
- 2.4 Authorised staff can test for the presence of banned substances including alcohol and drugs using testing kits purchased by the school specifically for this purpose.
- 2.5 In a **medical emergency** the priority is student safety and the student will be seen by a First Aider as per school Medical Policy, who may need to administer First Aid and summon appropriate support. Then parents will be contacted and depending on the circumstances the police may need to be called. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services will need to be contacted.
- 2.6 Teachers, support staff and some Governors will receive regular and on-going drug awareness training. In depth training for staff includes identifying potentially at risk students and recognising the symptoms of drug, alcohol and substance abuse.

3. Illegal Drugs, Legal Drugs and Prescribed Medications

- 3.1 The Department of Education defines a drug as “A substance people take to change the way they feel think or behave”.

- 3.2 The type of drugs may include cannabis, amphetamines, cocaine, ecstasy, LSD, Ketamine, Heroin, MDMA, legal highs, CBD oil, edibles, Nitrous Oxide (laughing gas balloons or canisters) or new psychoactive substances. Ingesting these substances is prohibited both on and off the school premises.
- 3.3 The possession or suspected possession of all drugs or drug paraphernalia is also prohibited as is the intent to supply. School staff can lawfully search a student if they suspect possession of these prohibited items. Possession of these prohibited items is likely to result in loss of school place.
- 3.4 Being under the influence of alcohol, or in possession of alcohol or alcoholic liquid disguised in another bottle is not tolerated.
- 3.5 Smoking cigarettes, e-cigarettes, shisha pens, pipes, vapes and other smoking devices are all forbidden as is the possession of smoking materials including tobacco, liquids, lighters and matches, cigarette papers and grinders. Staff can lawfully confiscate prohibited items found as a result of a search. Students in possession of these prohibited items are at risk of losing their school place.
- 3.6 Improper use of over the counter and prescription medications (eg sleeping pills, slimming pills, steroids, analgesics) can occur so these are not permitted in school and students who are found in possession of these will be disciplined in line with this policy and the behaviour policy and will be excluded. Mitigating circumstances may be considered.
- 3.7 The school reserves the right to amend and include new substances in this policy as incidents arise or new information is received.
- 3.8 Some students are prescribed medicines by their doctor, which they may need to take whilst at school and this is permitted if it is for the treatment or prevention of certain medical conditions. Further guidance on this can be found in the school Medical Policy.

4. 4. Students , staff and visitors under the influence of drugs or alcohol or in possession of drugs, alcohol and other banned substances

- 4.1 Staff members suspected to be under the influence of any substances whilst on school premises or on school business could be tested and disciplined in line with their contract of employment.
- 4.2 Visitors and contractors suspected to be under the influence of any substances on school premises will be escorted from the premises. The Head teacher has the authority to ban persistent offenders from the school.
- 4.3 If a student is suspected to be in possession of a banned substance they will be screened and searched as per school policy and the item subsequently confiscated.
- 4.4 If the student is suspected to be intoxicated or under the influence of drugs they will be breathalysed or drug tested for their own safety.
- 4.5 If it has been confirmed by the use of testing or the student's own admission that they have taken drugs or alcohol parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect them from school as per the Medical Policy.
- 4.6 The same will apply if the student is found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst offsite on an educational visit.
- 4.7 Resulting sanctions will be applied as per 6.3 of this policy and in line with the school's Discipline, Student Behaviour & Exclusion Policy.
- 4.8 The Police may or may not be called depending on the individual incident and whether illegal or legal drugs are involved. School will not permit the strip searching of students by police officers on the school premises.
- 4.9 School safeguarding procedures will be followed as per the school's policy

5. Managing Drugs, Alcohol and Substance abuse Incidents

- 5.1 The school has a statutory obligation to manage the health and safety of all staff, students and visitors and ensure school discipline is maintained.
- 5.2 Under this authority we reserve the right to test for prohibited substances, alcohol and illegal drugs that are damaging to health, where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion.
- 5.3 Testing is indicated if the individual demonstrates behaviour suggestive that they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol or there are other visible symptoms of substance abuse.
- 5.4 Testing will also be carried out if an incident or accident has occurred and the student or students involved are thought to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol or other substances at the time. The test is performed to confirm or refute the suspicion.
- 5.5 When a student has been searched in line with the School Discipline, Student Behaviour and Exclusion Policy and drugs have been found the student will be required to undertake drug testing. Students attending the SLC and their parents/carers are made aware prior to their placement that routine searching takes place.
- 5.6 Consent will be sought prior to testing taking place. If consent is not given parents/carers will be contacted.
- 5.7 Where there is a refusal to co-operate the student and their parent/carer would be made aware that the School Discipline, Student Behaviour and Exclusion Policy will be followed and sanctions will be imposed. The parent will be asked to collect their child.

6. Testing for the presence of Drugs and Alcohol

- 6.1 A 7 in 1 Saliva test will be used which is marked with an accuracy level of 99%. This test detects the presence of the following drugs; Cocaine, Speed, Methamphetamines, Cannabis, Heroin, Benzodiazepines and Methadone.
- 6.2 A Digital Alcohol breathalyser will be used which detects the presence of alcohol in the breath.
- 6.3 There will be two members of staff present, one to act as a witness during the procedure. Testing by a member of staff of the same sex can be requested.
- 6.4 Students will be treated courteously and testing will take place in private. Confidentiality and dignity will be maintained at all times.

7. Results and Sanctions

- 7.1 If the student tests positive for drugs or alcohol this will be treated as a serious incident and the student may be expelled.
- 7.2 The exclusion may be either a suspension or expulsion. The school will determine this based on individual circumstances and whether the student has continually failed to ignore the school rules.
- 7.3 If the results are negative the school has the right to ask the parents/carers to collect the student if they continue to demonstrate any behaviour which could be detrimental to their own wellbeing and safety as well as that of the school community as a whole.

7.4 If a staff member tests positive for alcohol or drugs they will be asked to leave the premises and will be disciplined in line with their contract of employment.

8. Education and Support

- 8.1 All students will receive information and education around the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of drugs and alcohol delivered as part of the PHSE syllabus.
- 8.2 Students excluded for the possession or use of drugs and alcohol will receive targeted support on a weekly basis covering drug, alcohol and knife misuse as part of PHSE while they are on placement in the Stepney Learning Centre (SLC).
- 8.3 The Safeguarding/pastoral team will make appropriate contact with external services to educate and support student's needs.