



**ST PETER'S SCHOOL
DRUGS EDUCATION AND MISUSE POLICY**

Date Reviewed: May 2024
Date of Next Review: May 2026
Reviewer: Jane Burniston

Date of ratification by Governing Board: 6th June 2024

Document Control		
Edition	Issued	Changes from previous
1	Dec 2016	Document checked Dec 2016 – updated re Designated Persons
2	Feb 2019	Document checked - legislation references added
3	June 2020	Minor changes to include reference to tobacco
4	June 2022	Updated references to Kick Ash and PD programme
5	May 2024	Updates to legislation, job titles, references to snus, addition of searching and confiscation process

Policies/Documents referred to in this policy	Post holders/Persons named in this policy
<p>This policy links to other school policies on: Child Protection and Safeguarding Positive Relationship Policy (Behaviour)-policy RSE policy</p> <p>Legislation relating to this policy: DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies September 2012 Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for schools July 2022 Health and Safety Educational visits Code of conduct for all adults</p>	<p>Headteacher Governing Body Designated Safeguarding Lead Head of Year Deputy Head Teacher Assistant Head Teacher Safer Schools Officer</p>

DRUGS EDUCATION AND MISUSE POLICY

Objectives

We believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse to:

- * provide accurate information about substances

- * increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- * encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use
- * widen understanding about related health and social issues e.g. sex and sexuality, crime (notably county lines), HIV and AIDS
- * seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- * ensure that all staff promote positive attitudes and behaviour including but not limited to tobacco products/vapes/snus, alcohol and drug use.
- * ensure staff have the knowledge and understanding of policies, procedures and agreed practice to support the implementation of the Smoke Free Policy
- * enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Rationale

The school is actively against the misuse of drugs, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes (or vapes), snus and alcohol by members of the school, and the illegal supply of these substances. The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward.

In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level, we wish to state that as part of its care for the welfare of its students, the school believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse. The school takes a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the Personal Development of every student.

Fundamental to our school's values and priority is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is rising, it is seen as important to recognise that the majority of young people are choosing not to use or misuse substances. We will continue to support their differing needs.

Definitions

Alcohol: means intoxicating liquor of all descriptions (including beer, cider, wine and spirits) and this policy covers obtaining, consuming, and supplying alcohol.

Tobacco use: For purposes of this policy, "tobacco use" means the personal use of any tobacco product, whether intended to be lit or not, which shall include smoking, as well as the use of an electronic cigarette or any other device intended to simulate smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco, including snuff; chewing tobacco; smokeless pouches; snus; any other form of loose-leaf, smokeless tobacco; and the use of unlit cigarettes, cigars, and pipe tobacco.

Drugs and substances: means controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs or substances intended to resemble drugs, or "legal" drugs which can be obtained from a chemist shop, performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue and other substances held or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse. This policy covers the possession, use and supply of such substances.

Implementation Plan

The Head Teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, Trust and school. The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

Guidelines

How these aims will be fulfilled

These aims will be fulfilled through aspects of the students' experience in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curricular activities. The main areas for fulfilling these aims in the taught curriculum are Personal Development (PD), and Science, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the curriculum, including the behaviour curriculum, and taking advantage of working with external agencies to increase the impact of the PD programme.

The role of Outside Agencies

The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as the Safer Schools Officer, Children's Social Care, Local Authority, The Healthy Schools Stop Smoking and Vaping Service (CATCH YOUR BREATH Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) and Health and Drug Agencies e.g. CASUS to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse. Visitors who support the school will be informed of the values held within this policy.

Guidance for Staff

Where a young person discloses substance misuse on the premises, staff will inform the appropriate pastoral team, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a member of the Senior Leadership Team and, where appropriate, participate in the planning of subsequent action as described below. Where a young person discloses substance misuse off the premises, the staff member will inform the appropriate pastoral team and the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

SEARCHING AND CONFISCATION (Searching, Screening and Confiscation July 2022 DfE) as detailed in the Positive Relationship Policy (Behaviour):

School staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees. Only staff authorised by the Headteacher can search a student.

Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item.

You must be the same sex as the pupil being searched; and there must be a witness (also a staff member) and, if possible, they should be the same sex as the pupil being searched.

There is a limited exception to this rule. You can carry out a search of a pupil of the opposite sex to you and / or without a witness present, but only where you reasonably believe that there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if you do not conduct the search immediately and where it is not reasonably practicable to summon another member of staff.

All searches must be recorded in the search log live (electronic format), so that the questions are asked of the student at the time of the search.

Prohibited items relevant to this policy are:

(The ability to give consent may be influenced by the child's age or other factors)

- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- smoking paraphernalia
- any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used:
 - to commit an offence, or
 - to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil).

Headteachers 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.

Confiscation

School staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search. They can also seize any item, they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline. Any illegal substances must be recorded in the substance log and reported to the police. Any weapons must be reported to the police. The Deputy Head Teacher for pastoral care/safeguarding or delegated member of the safeguarding team will contact the police as appropriate, and we work in these incidences with the Safer Schools Officer.

The school is not responsible for lost/damaged or confiscated items.

How Parents and Governors are involved

The Head Teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, Local Authority, and appropriate outside agencies. The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance abuse issues are adequately supported and trained.

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussions between staff members who know the student well:

Parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Head of Year. The school and the parents can then work together to support the young person involved, except where the Head Teacher/governors think not this is not in the best interests of the child.

If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the teacher will inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead /Head of Year who will inform the parents.

Although, there is no legal obligation to inform the Police about incidents involving legal drugs, they may be able to give relevant support and advice. However, a school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of drugs. St Peter's school will always contact the police if illegal drugs are found on the school site or if there is evidence that a member of the school community is involved in the distribution of these items. Where it is suspected that dangerous substances are continuing to be

sold on the premises, details regarding those involved as well as much information as possible, will be passed to the Safer Schools Officer.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the students involved, the other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion is seen as a last resort.

Regarding the welfare of staff, the school will follow the County Council Health and Safety Policy, the Code of Conduct and its own disciplinary procedures which are designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

The Head Teacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local national media, the school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the CAM Trust Press Office and Legal department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.